

Peakland Baptist Church and Coronavirus Plans

As this week has continued, I have received information from reliable sources about faith communities and recommended approaches to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Here is the synopsis:

1. The COVID-19 virus is not worse than flu, but has some differences which make it more dangerous:
 - a. There are not enough tests which enable doctors to immediately diagnose and isolate cases of COVID-19; flu can immediately be tested for;
 - b. COVID-19 is rapidly transferred—right now, the prediction is for the number of cases in the US to double every four days.
2. The COVID-19 virus is particularly dangerous for the following groups:
 - a. Older adults
 - b. People who have chronic medical conditions or are immuno-suppressed

While there has not been a case in our area, there are cases in Virginia. Faith communities are already being asked to do the following by the CDC:

1. Have an emergency plan, including:
 - a. Plans for communication
 - i. Buddy system of congregation
 - ii. Frequent communication
 - b. Plans for prevention;
 - c. Plans for staff;
 - i. Dealing with those who are paid hourly;
 - ii. Reasonable practices for sick leave or prevention;
 - d. Plans for coordination with community needs;
 - e. Plans for postponing or canceling events;
 - f. Plans for offerings (it is very easy for us to get behind when people stay home)
2. If outbreak occurs in the community--Put emergency plans into action
 - a. Distribute health information
 - b. Deal with staff/sick leave policies
 - c. Communicate often

I propose the following plan for Peakland Baptist Church:

1. Today: Distribute health and safety information
 - a. Social media
 - b. Website
 - c. Mail
2. Today (same notification): Distribute Our recommendations
 - a. The CDC recommends that people on Medicare avoid crowds—we should also recommend that—people can interpret that however they want, but we should follow the language of the CDC

- b. Stay Well Practices
 - i. Stay Home
 - 1. If you feel sick
 - 2. If you are a vulnerable population
 - ii. Stay Clean
 - 1. Wash your hands
 - 2. Clean surfaces
 - 3. Do not touch your face
 - iii. Stay Connected
 - 1. Email
 - 2. Website
 - 3. Facebook
 - 4. Mail
 - 5. Phone
 - iv. Stay Centered
 - 1. God is with us
 - 2. This is not the apocalypse
 - 3. This is also not nothing
- 3. As needed:
 - a. Canceling services based on advice from CDC and local authorities
 - b. Caring for homebound