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