

RCC COVID-19 Update

In March, the RCC Eldership decided on two responses to deter the spread of the COVID-19 virus among our friends, neighbors and community:

1. All RCC large group gatherings were suspended until further notice.
2. The RCC building was made available for individual administrative tasks only and not for any type of gathering.

Our scriptural guide is and continues to be based on 1 Peter 2:13-15 and many other verses like it.

- We were asked by the governing authorities and by our neighbors to refrain from gathering in large groups. For the health and well-being of our community, we decided to do that.

We continue to hold fast to Jesus Christ and believe in the certain perseverance of His Church. In our navigation of these challenges, we have witnessed the strengthening and growth of the Church. We asked that everyone connected to RCC to stay steadfast in faith and diligent in prayer and to be encouraging to one another. So many of you have done exactly that. Thank-You.

In addition to asking you to walk with us in these decisions, we also determined to modify the Church's ministry and expression of Christian Faith in these ways:

- **Fasting, Prayer & Devotion: Colossians 4:2-3 (ESV)**
 - Many committed to 24/7 Prayer and Fasting or 1 Hour a Day of Prayer and Devotion.
- **Utilize the Online "Get Prayer Here" Card:**
 - To communicate prayer concerns, the Connection Team developed an online prayer card.
- **Family Worship in Homes: Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)**
 - Many have connected with the RCC Live Stream or have committed to family worship at home.
- **1 to 1 Shepherding: 1 Peter 5:2 (ESV)**
 - You cared to check-in on groups and individuals to serve them during social distancing.
- **Love Your Neighbor: Matthew 5:43-45 (ESV)**
 - You have done all you can to check on and help your neighbors get through this.

As we review the road we've traveled during COVID-19, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ for His faithfulness and our heartfelt thanks to you for walking with us in these tough times.

Now, on to further discussions...

On Friday May 8th, the RCC Elders and Pastor began discussing the details of how RCC will begin to emerge from COVID-19.

- We are not discussing RCC "Re-Opening" or "Re-Starting" because we truly feel Christ's Church has never "Closed" or "Stopped".
- RCC's alteration of ministry during COVID-19 has been unsettling at times. But, through these changes God has purified some great questions we've had as a leadership. God has also provided opportunities for ministry movement unparalleled in this congregation's history.

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God has Shown Us: (To name just a few things)

- The Church building and comfort of having the four walls are not as vital a part of Church ministry as we once thought. Certainly, it's helpful to have a place to meet and very encouraging to gather with our brothers and sisters in the faith, but we believe God has removed this luxury for this time, for a purpose.
- The foundation of the Church and nature of our relationships are solid as the work we've done has been "revealed by fire" in this time. It has been revealed to be built on rock, not sand. (1 Corinthians 3)
- How RCC may increase our reach through the reasonable use of online technology and intentional personal networking and relationships.
- That Christian ministry truly is a "whole Church" activity not located just to pastors or elders. The Church of Christ works together for the full expression of the mission and ministry.
- His faithfulness as tithes, offerings and local benevolence have not decreased in this difficult time. Also, RCC's reach and connection with the community are expanding.

RCC's Emergence from COVID-19

- The process coming forward from this time will not be based on any one person or group's opinion about the COVID-19 shutdowns. We have decided to seek the Lord's will through scripture and prayer.
- We realize that we are not experts in virology, public policy, civil liberties or civic management. Therefore we feel it is wise to defer to experts and the authorities God has placed over us in regard to when it's appropriate to gather fully as a congregation.
- We are now actively seeking a more robust expression of the Church's mission and ministry no matter the determinations of the state or the progression of the virus. We will do this while submitting to the governing authorities as scripture indicates.

Determinations as of May 8th, 2020.

- The Governor of Illinois has determined that worship gatherings of no more than 10 people will be safe at this time. Therefore, we feel it's appropriate to further suspend all RCC Large Group gatherings as we know we cannot stay within these guidelines should we decide to meet at the building.
- In addition, we feel it's appropriate to continue to limit RCC building usage to administrative tasks only and not for any type of gathering, bible study group, youth ministry or otherwise.
- We've discovered as a leadership that even if we decided to gather as a large group now, we would be unprepared to answer the mass of questions and address needs created by COVID-19.
 - Therefore we are committed as a leadership and are now calling on all various ministry leaders to begin discussions, alterations to ministry and planning with the elders and pastor.
 - These preparation efforts will be in anticipation of the day when Rushville Church of Christ resumes larger group gatherings of any type in any location. **That day will come.**

Again, thank-you for walking with us during this difficult time we are navigating. We continue to believe that Christ is King, His Church is victorious and His mission is undeterred. As the eldership and ministry leaders open these discussions, we will publicize further determinations as this situation develops and preparations are made.

Love In Christ,

Elder Erik Monteen

Elder Jason Ackman

Elder Marty Ralston

With Pastor Jason Triplett