

## **Grace Reformed Corona Virus Statement (as of March 11, 2020)**

Dear Grace Reformed Family,

I am writing you on behalf of the consistory. As you may have heard, as of yesterday there are now five confirmed cases of coronavirus in South Dakota. One of them is in Mitchell. While we do not wish to succumb to the media/social media hysteria surrounding this disease, we do acknowledge that it is highly infectious and could present real dangers for our elderly congregants and those with underlying medical conditions. We have no plans to cancel any services at this time, but we would like to ask you, in Christian love, to help us limit exposure to yourself and others at church.

To that end, we are asking you to help us with the following for the next few weeks:

- Be proactive. Try to avoid individuals and situations that will put you at higher risk of infection.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- If you have been diagnosed with coronavirus, are experiencing suspicious symptoms (fever over 100 degrees, coughing, sore throat), have been in close contact with someone who is symptomatic, or have travelled recently, please stay home.
- When you come to church, we will have hand sanitizer available. Please use it upon entering, to protect yourself and others when shaking hands.
- If you are at home and need pastoral or diaconal care, please let a consistory member know. (James 5:14) Please understand that we do not know you have a need unless you tell us. We don't want anyone to fall through the cracks.

We will keep you informed, if we have to take additional steps, but hope to back to "business as usual" by the beginning of April. Do remember that "sickness and health...come not by chance, but from God's fatherly hand." So, to paraphrase a British WW2 slogan, "Keep calm, trust the Lord, and carry on."

Blessings,

Pastor Kevin