North England Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

RJ/yjc

13 March 2020

TO BE READ TO ALL CHURCHES IN THE NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Covid 19 Advisory

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I greet you warmly with my prayer for continued blessings for you and family.

The United Kingdom has now joined many other countries in the world in confirming cases of the COVID-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) has now classified COVID-19 as a pandemic. While we pray earnestly that the situation in the United Kingdom will not get any worse, we must ensure that the necessary precautions are taken to minimize the risks. As such, the Administration of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North England Conference shares the following protocols as we move forward:

- 1. Outside of regular church service, no other large gathering should be planned (music days, rallies, pathfinder and youth-related outdoor activities etc.).
- 2. Evangelistic series in progress must be concluded at the very soonest, while maintaining the protocols that have been established for large gathering.
- 3. Where possible, streaming of our services should be done to minimise large gathering, in addition to using other forms of technology for our evangelistic programmes and activities.
- 4. Until further advised, if communion and baptismal services must be conducted, strict hygienic protocols should be observed.
- 5. If funerals, repasts and weddings cannot be rescheduled, then the relevant hygienic protocols should be strictly observed.
- 6. No handshaking, holding of hands or embracing, as we seek to minimize the risks.
- 7. Facilities such as hand sanitizer, gloves for persons handling tithes and offerings, must be put in place.
- 8. Members and guests who have recently travelled within the last 14 days returning from North America, Europe and Asia (China and other Asian countries), or countries where the virus has been confirmed, are asked to "voluntarily" worship at home using livestream on YouTube, Hope Channel or 3ABN for 14 days.



OFFICE: +44(0) 115 960 6312

WEBSITE: necadventist.org.uk

EMAIL: info@necadventist.org.uk

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- 9. Elderly persons with pre-existing conditions should stay home.
- 10. Persons with cold, fever and flu-like symptoms must seek medical advice and stay home
- 11. Potlucks should be discontinued.
- 12. Where facilities are available, please utilise the online giving platform.

We also admonish you to keep abreast of the news and abide by the guidelines and regulations as outlined by the NHS.

Please avoid distributing information from sources that cannot be verified. False information will lead to panic and create hysteria. Sources such as NHS; World Health Organisation (www.who.int); Centre for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov), www.adventist.org.uk and www.necadventist.org.uk will provide all the information and guidelines needed.

Also, practise personal hygiene, to include the regular washing of hands; avoid touching face; sneeze or cough in paper towel, tissue or your elbow; avoid public places if you have flu-like symptoms. In addition, boost your immune system by having increased fruits and vegetables and other supplements, such as Vitamin C and Zinc.

Further updates will be given as it becomes necessary. In the meantime, we encourage each member to be cautious and use the best judgement in interactions.

Let us rest in the assurance found in Psalms 91:2 "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Him will I trust".

Your Brother in Christ

Pastor Richard Jackson Pastor & President

Extending God's Kingdom - Nurturing Each Other and Winning Another

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