

COVID UPDATE – MARCH 15 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT



Greetings VKHBC,

For those who decided to stay home today I wanted to let you know [today's sermon is already available on our website](#) (Thanks Will!) and also provide the following update: In addition to changes and precautions mentioned in my previous email, as a temporary precaution moving forward, **we have decided to cancel our Sunday evening service until further notice.**

Unless you hear otherwise, we will continue with our regular Sunday school and morning service.

I've also decided to share the following to not only help you understand the approach our leadership is taking at VKHBC, but to better equip you as these kind of questions and discussions will inevitably come up from friends and neighbours in our community in the weeks to come. Especially when some churches are shutting down everything effective immediately and others are cautiously proceeding.

While all kinds of people are offering their opinions on how to minimize the potential impact of Covid-19, leaders such as myself must determine who we should be listening to. Submitting to the recommendation from the government in relationship to issues like this does not mean we trust those in authority will always make the best decisions for everyone... governments are comprised of humans and they make mistakes. **But the God in whom we trust did not make a mistake by appointing those who are in authority over us (Romans 13:1-7).**

In regards to what and when to cancel various gatherings the government recognizes "[Cancelling large events may be recommended from a public health perspective, but compliance and sustainability may be difficult and may cause significant social disruption and public resistance.](#)" In other words, societies are multifaceted-complex systems, and determining how to ensure the well-being of everyone in the bigger picture requires the expert advice of much more than medical professionals alone.

This is why it is wise to always trust in our sovereign Lord and in doing so, seek to honour the leadership of those in authority over us.

The current [guidelines from the government of Canada](#) leave much room for interpretation. The [Ontario government](#) and [Eastern Ontario Health Unit](#) don't offer any additional advice in regards to "mass gatherings," though individuals and families from our church should certainly comply to anything mentioned that applies to you personally (E.g. those travelling or in contact with those travelling outside of the country)

There is also the wisdom of other churches to consider. And in addition to all this there is also the perception those in our community may have of us when everyone else is doing their part to cancel and we are not; we do not want to bring unnecessary reproach upon our ministry here. We want to communicate things like peace, courage, and compassion to onlookers, not indifference.

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Understand that other churches (and other individuals) may consider similar factors themselves, but come to different conclusions based on the size, resources, demographics, and locations of their congregations and facilities.

The above factors (**AND PRAYER**) will help us to decide how to move forward in wisdom.

Please continue in confidence to pray for wisdom for the world and our own nations leadership, those directly or indirectly affected or afflicted by the spread of Covid-19, for our church's leadership, and for one another! (cf. James 1:5-8). May we remain faithful stewards and ministers of the blessed hope we have in Christ during this time!

If I can be of any help to you this week, do not hesitate to contact me.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him!

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Pastor Scott