

# Task Force on Racial Justice, Reconciliation & Healing



**Broad Learning Community**

**Steering Committee Selected from Task Group Membership**

**Group will evaluate resources, including PCUSA Matthew 25 Initiative**

**Task Force will Launch next steps for the Presbytery**

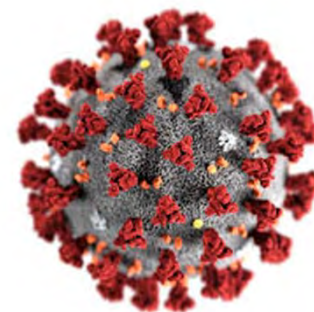
**Frequent updates and opportunities**

# Pandemic Response from the Presbytery Leader Team & Connecting our Ministry Commission

The Leader Team and COM are working on a Joint Advisory.

Every time it seems to be complete, the situation changes.

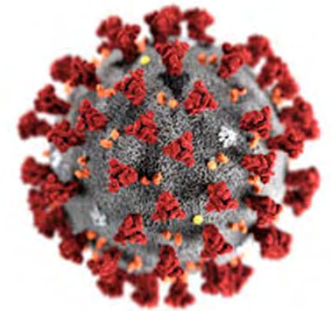
Here's what we will be advising: As a reminder, every session needs to develop their own plan for operations in this time of Pandemic. We are available to assist you with your specific plans and questions. Pastors and congregational leaders meet on Mondays over zoom at 10am for support, prayer and to “crowd-source” planning.



# Situation Nationally and in Pennsylvania

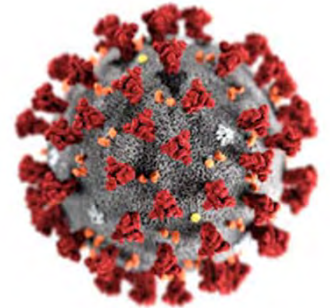
The CDC continues to call for strict mitigation:

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet
  - Face Masks in public
  - Sanitizing, Disinfecting, Handwashing
- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at present remains in “green” with mitigations for public gatherings. Covid infections are up 115% in the past 2 weeks. New targeted measures will be announced this afternoon. Philadelphia is banning all indoor gatherings through the end of the year.



# In-Person Worship: Rigorous Mitigation

- PA Guidelines of July 15 limit indoor gatherings to 20% capacity. Suggested that churches follow the guidelines.
- Social Distancing of at-least 6 feet
- Mandate masks for all, except for worship leaders while leading. “Mask-optional” is not an option.
- 20 feet between worship leader and anyone else
- Congregational participation should be at “half voice” behind face masks
- Limit service time – 30-45 minutes

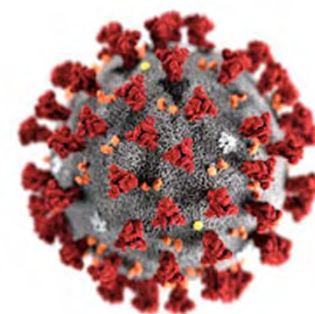


# **“Walking it Back” from In-Person Worship and Activities**

**-- In the past 2 weeks, 7 churches that were worshipping in-person have returned to their previous Covid arrangements – online or via phone conference.**

**-- Some churches who were planning to resume in-person worship have suspended those plans**

**--All churches worshipping in person or with in-person activities should adopt a plan to suspend in-person, including Advent/Christmas plan. In case it is needed. The plan should include what would trigger the plan – local infection and community situation.**

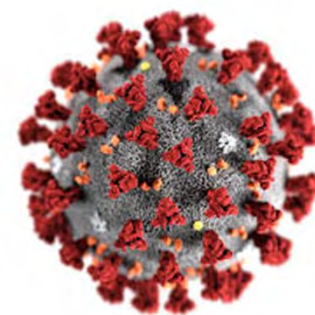


# Recommendation: Suspend In-Person Gatherings for January and at least until Lent

-- All the experts say this will be a difficult winter. Potentially catastrophic. Winter brings the flu and cold season. There's no way to tell if viral symptoms are Covid or the Common Cold

-- Add weather to mix, with having to "make the call" about cancellation or not. Many faithful churchgoers need to worry about slips and falls.

--If you plan now to suspend in-person worship at least until the start of Lent (Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17), this will free the energy that goes into decision-making for long-range planning, hopefully as conditions improve.





# The Presbytery of **DONEGAL**

**Vision and Direction for 2020 - 2022**



*The Mission of the Presbytery of Donegal is to participate in the Gospel of Jesus Christ by equipping the ministry of congregations and leaders of congregations, and by carrying out the mission that we do better together as a presbytery to fulfill the Great Ends of the Church.*

## Presbytery Mission Statement





**The Presbytery of Donegal Budget  
is based on the Mission Priorities  
of the Presbytery**



# Mission Priorities

2021-2022



**Deepen Multicultural Ministry**

**Broaden Mission Engagement**

**Equip Transformative Leadership**

**Empower Faith Formation**

**Advance Communications &  
Connections**

# 3 Areas for Strategic Focus

Support	Support the healthy ministry of congregations
Equip	Equip pastors and leaders in their ministries
Partner	Partner in mission in those things which we do better together

# Deepen Multi-Cultural Ministry



Equip the ministries of our multi-cultural congregations and immigrant fellowships

**Oromo Evangelical Presbyterian Church:** housed at Bethany. Just installed new pastor. More than 50 kids.

**Lighthouse Imani:** Swahili speaking people from West Africa. Housed at Highland

**Iglesia Renacer:** Growing in worship and Bible Study under leadership of Noma Paz. In partnership with Christo Rey Methodist Church in West Grove, PA

**Iglesia Resurreccion:** Lancaster based, housed at Bethany. Heavily involved in support of those newer to this country in changing immigration climate

# Broaden Mission Engagement



## **Identify 2 – 5 Major Areas of Mission Engagement**

Ideas include Hunger, Homelessness, Gun Violence, Church Security, Immigration/Refugee Support, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Care of Creation

## **Add a Presbytery Mission Engagement Facilitator**

## **Partner with Our Mission Congregations and Networks**

## **New Worshiping Communities Commission**

## **Establish Mission Conduits with Geographically Adjacent Presbyteries**

# Equip Transformative Leadership

**Pastor Cohorts: NewLead, Lunch & Books Group, SPIRE**

**Support Congregations in Transition**

**Equip Congregations and Leaders for God's New Future**





# Empower Faith Formation

**Equip Faith Formation Initiatives in Congregations**

**Support Immersive Experiences for Faith Formation**





# Advance Communications & Connections

**Presbytery Updated Website**

**Advance Presbytery Communications:**

**Improved E-News; add video and social media connections**

**Support Congregations with their Communication Plans**

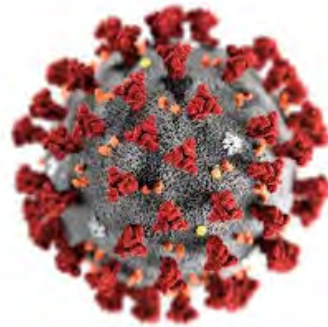
**Build Connections with Congregations, the Presbytery,  
Synod of the Trinity and the General Assembly of the  
PC(USA)**



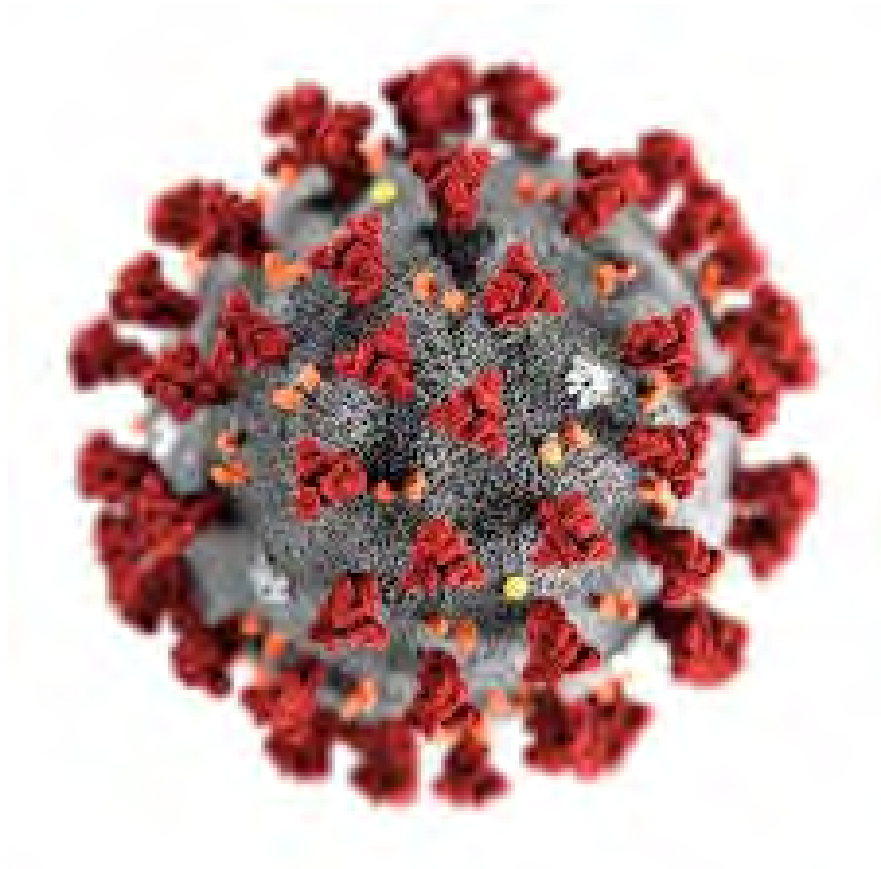
# The Best-Laid Plans ... Often Go Astray

*Flash Update:*

*About 1 Minute after the  
Mission Priorities were  
adopted ....*



Nine Months Later



# Mission Priorities

2020: A Time  
of Pandemic



**Support Pastors and Congregations**

**Grants for Technology and Mission**

**Task Force on Racial Justice,  
Reconciliation & Healing**

**Facilitate Pastoral Transitions**

**Advance Communications &  
Connections**

# More on Adaptive Priorities in a Time of Pandemic

**All congregations have needed to pivot repeatedly.**

**The Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Connecting our Ministry Commission and Leader Team have provided personalized support and consultation with our pastors and congregations.**

**Technology has been a huge learning curve for most congregations.**

**We moved forward with initiatives to address the pandemic of racism and encourage civility among political divides.**



# More on Presbytery Finances in a Time of Pandemic

**Mission surplus from 2020 will be allocated to the EOM reserve fund up to the amount remaining in the 2020 EOM budget for distribution in 2021 while our congregations continue to navigate financial uncertainty.**



**This means EOM grants will not need to be on hold in 2021.**

**The 2021 Presbytery budget will be monitored continually while the Pandemic continues. We expect that we will not know the “new normal” until 2022.**

**The financial position of the presbytery is strong with adequate reserves.**