



Church of God in Western Canada

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To All Our Pastors and Ministers:

The past few weeks have been unprecedented for our nation, provinces and communities as we deal with the effects of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. I want you to know that during this stressful and uncertain time, Connie and I am here and available for you and that you can feel free to call on us at any time.

When responding to COVID-19, we in no way want you to add to the fear and irrational behaviour taking place. We are people of FAITH, not fear. We need to be responsible and carefully adhere to the recommendations provided by our Federal, Provincial and Civic governments. Presently in our Western Canada region, 3 out of the 4 provinces are under a State of Emergency – BC, AB & SK. Please take a few minutes and find out what the restrictions and guidelines are for your city or town in the links below.

It is my strongest recommendation that you strictly follow the requirements for self-isolating and social-distancing when needed to prevent the spreading of this virus. As Pastors and Ministers, you are influencers, and your choices & conduct are watched by your church family & those in your community. You need to personally follow the government guidelines and encourage your congregation to do likewise. In most provinces, the restriction for public gatherings is 50 people. **At this point, ALL COG churches should only be providing online services & ministries and refrain from ANY public gatherings.**

All Regional events have been canceled until at least June 2020, and I have suspended all of my travel until further notice. Presently, the Regional Office will remain open, but that's a day-to-day decision. You can always reach me via e-mail at rev.has@sasktel.net or by cell at (306) 630-8529. With the Lord's help and the strong leadership of the Regional Council, COG-WC has wisely positioned itself to weather this storm financially and ministry-wise. For now, my plan is to host monthly online Zoom Meetings to keep our Pastors connected and equipped for this battle. My desire is to encourage, serve & resource you, so that together, we can get through this season.

Please remember that Connie and I love you and that you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Larry Hasmatali

Larry Hasmatali

Administrative Bishop for the Church of God in Western Canada

Links to keep you informed and prepared for dealing with the COVID-19 virus:

[CHURCH OF GOD COMMUNICATIONS- COG Response to COVID-19](#)

[EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA- COVID-19 Impact on Church Life](#)

[CANADA HELPS-Setting up Online Giving for Churches](#)

[GOVERNMENT OF CANADA–COVID-19 Updates, Travel Advice, Being Prepared, Symptoms & Treatment, Prevention & Risk & Canada’s Response](#)

[GOVERNMENT OF CANADA - Risk-Informed Decision-Making for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19 Global Outbreak](#)

[GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA – COVID-19 Updates](#)

[GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN-COVID-19 Updates](#)

[GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA-COVID-19 Updates](#)

[GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA-COVID-19 Updates](#)