

Second Pastoral Letter to the Wesley Church Family on the Covid-19 Situation (15 Feb 2020)

(By Rev Stanley Chua, Pastor-in-Charge)



Dear Friends and Members of the Wesley family,

You have just read my first pastoral letter (14 Feb 2020) and now I am writing another one. We are indeed going through testing times as a nation as well as a Church. Things are evolving and happening so quickly thus, I have to pen this second pastoral letter to keep you updated. This is in response to the latest advisory by our Minister of Health who met and briefed the various Heads of Churches (our Bishop was in attendance) last evening. In brief, **our Minister of Health advises that worship services may continue, but with appropriate precautionary measures.** Read the press release from the Ministry of Health (MOH) on 14 Feb 2020: <https://tinyurl.com/udho6jy>.

In response to our Minister of Health's advisory, the Methodist Church in Singapore, led by our Bishop and Presidents from our three Annual Conferences (CAC, ETAC and TRAC), have decided that, as a Methodist Church, we will not suspend our worship services but continue as long as we have the necessary precautionary measures in place and are not directed by MOH to do otherwise. As part of the Methodist family, we will, therefore, follow the lead of our leaders. I wish to let you know that this is not an easy decision (not to suspend our worship services like some have), but I believe our Bishop and Presidents have agonized much and done their best to give us their collective wisdom in these trying times. Let us not make things difficult for them. We are reminded from scriptures in **Hebrews 13:17 (NIV): "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."**

Let me encourage all of us to continue to give our support to our Bishop and the three Presidents and not forgetting your Pastor-in-Charge here as well. I assure you that our pastors, leaders and myself will work very hard and take all the necessary precautionary measures to keep our congregation safe without having to compromise our need to exercise our faith in God to worship Him as a family. The immediate concern now is the 135th Anniversary of our Church and The Methodist Church in Singapore (MCS).

A. WesleyMC's and MCS' Combined Anniversary Services (16 Feb 2020)

We will continue to do temperature screening and contact tracing. All our ushers have been directed to assist us in fulfilling the MOH 70% guidelines of filling up our Sanctuary, Hall and additional rooms attendance to prevent over-crowding. Therefore, please cooperate with our ushers if you are directed away from the main Sanctuary and Hall. We have cancelled all our combined choir and orchestra ministry for the two services. Our ushers will not distribute hard copies of our Wesley Weekly. However, for those who have not received this pastoral letter and still wish to have the hard copy, we will make it available at the Information Counter. All members are encouraged to use the e-version of our Wesley Weekly*. We will also attempt to remove all hymnals and bibles from our pews and will project our order of service on the screen.

Here are some additional measures that we have decided to put in place for all our worship services henceforth:

B. Additional Measures for All Worship Services

1. Cancel all Children's Ministry and BeTWEEN Ministry.
2. Stop production of hard copies of Wesley Weekly (WW) and distribution. Instead, we encourage congregation to use e-versions of WW.
3. All worship Order of Service will be projected on screen.
4. Remove all hymnals and bibles from the pews.
5. Cancel all Choir ministry for all worship services.
6. Worship Sanctuary, Halls and Rooms will fulfil the 70% attendance guidelines issued by MOH to avoid overcrowding. Chief Ushers of each service will work in concert with the pastors to make a judgment call on the 70% attendance guideline. Once the call is made by the Chief Usher & pastor, the remaining worshippers will be directed to other rooms.
7. No tables and ministry booths are to be set up at the Atrium areas.
8. Closure of the Welcome Corner.
9. No sale of food or breakfast.
10. Online streaming service will be made available next weekend.

The above are the additional measures that we will put in place from next weekend. May I continue to urge all of us to take care of our health and practise our social responsibilities. Let me encourage us again, if you are unwell, please do not come to Church but use our online services to join us in our worship. Also, **kindly check our Church website (www.wesleymc.org) for our latest updates and pastoral letters.**

Finally, may I encourage all of us to continue to remain calm and cooperate with all our pastors and staff and not make things difficult for them. Let us not create a crisis out of this crisis. But, let us heed and live out the scripture in Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) **“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

Yours-in-Christ,



Ps Stanley

Read WesleyMC's Church Advisory on Covid-19 here <https://wesleymc.org/church-advisory-covid-19>

*Download the Wesley Weekly here: <https://wesleymc.org/weekly>

Contact / For Enquiries

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