

## Attachment B

### Guidelines for LCM Pastors and Congregations during the period of MCO and days immediately thereafter.

#### A. Pastor's role

The Pastor's primary role is to shepherd (care) for his flock. Broken down, this involves:

1. Pastoral Care – visitation, catching up, chatting
2. Prayer for the flock – prayer meetings, intercessory prayer, prayer for the congregation
3. Feeding – teaching, preaching through sermons, bible studies and other means to encourage and strengthen the flock.
4. Community – encouraging members in outreach, missions, social concern, etc.

**The biggest challenge with the current situation is that the pastor's role of caring must not only happen, it must be seen to happen** – i.e. be visible to the members. They need to know that the captain is still at the helm.

**In light of the above, the following guidelines are proposed for the pastor during the period of the MCO:**

**1) Office Hours** - Maintain some form of regular office hours as working from home needs the discipline of setting some hours aside to attend to "work," to avoid being distracted by other matters. These hours could perhaps be informed to the congregation.

**2) Pastoral Care** – a list should be made up, prioritizing those most in need – the sick, elderly, those who are alone, etc. The pastor then should regularly communicate with the members individually or by family through WhatsApp, Phone calls, Facetime, Messenger, etc. Pastors should especially be sensitive to what is happening with the members in terms of feelings, frustrations, conflicts, etc. especially in this time of MCO. Time should be set aside every week for the purpose of 'touching base' in this manner.

#### **3) Prayer for the flock**

- Pastors should organise regular prayer meetings (at least once a week) via zoom or any other platform, to provide an avenue for members to voice their concerns and know that they are being prayed for.
- Other fellowship / cell / prayer groups should be encouraged via online platforms to promote connection and a sense of community. The purpose of all this is to help members feel that they are still part of the faith community and are not alone.
- Pastors should also, when they are communicating with individuals, pray for them over the phone or some other means.

**4) Feeding the flock** – As one of the primary roles of the pastor is preaching and teaching the Word, this is the time for pastors to shine on FB and other platforms (congregation WhatsApp groups, etc.)

- Pastors are to be a source of encouragement and therefore should post (regularly) encouragement be it written or recorded video messages, devotions, and sermons.
- An Online Bible Study via Zoom or other apps is a good way to feed and connect with the congregation. This is also a way to keep the pastor's "face" visible to the members.

- Pastors should NOT (or at least, lessen) post overly about themselves and make themselves or their families the centre of attention.
- Pastors should also AVOID posting unverified information about Covid-19 or potential cures, or any such information.

**5) Community** – pastors should watch out for opportunities to minister to the greater community especially during this MCO and encourage and support members who take the initiative to do so.

**6) Giving** – Pastors should continue to encourage giving of tithes and offerings through online means.

**7) Example** – pastors should be a good example in the time of MCO by obeying the restrictions and staying at home. This includes avoiding travel to office, church, gathering people for short meetings or recording services, etc.

**8) Health** – while caring for others, Pastors should watch over their own mental and physical health and get in touch with counsellors or their respective Deans or fellow pastors if they need to talk. Pastors should not neglect their own fellowship needs in compliance with the MCO.

#### **B. Role of Congregation Leadership**

- The basic role of the leadership would be to support the above-mentioned activities by providing funds and expertise, a laptop and a good broadband connection is essential for the pastor and the congregation, leaders should ensure that their pastor(s) is properly equipped.
- Council meetings and other leadership meetings should continue via online platforms in order to provide continuity and leadership.
- Leadership should also, together with the Pastor, identify members / families in need and support them in whichever way possible.

#### **C. Training in the use of the necessary tools to carry out ministry online.**

Please refer to the other document on 'Tips of Conducting Effective and Creative Online'.