

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

St. Thomas	1732
St. Croix	1734
St. John	1741
Antigua	1756
Barbados	1765
St. Kitts	1777
Tobago	1790
Trinidad	1890
Tortola	1993
Grenada	

**THE PROVINCIAL ELDERS CONFERENCE
OF THE
MORAVIAN CHURCH
EASTERN WEST INDIES PROVINCE**

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**Provincial Headquarters, P.O. Box 504, Cashew Hill, Antigua, W.I.
 Tel: (268) 560-0185; Fax (268) 462-0643
 E-mail: moravianchewip@gmail.com,**

To: All Members of Staff/Congregations
 cc Members of PEC, Bishops

From: Rev. Algernon Lewis
 Chairman of PEC

Subject: Coronavirus alert

Date: March 5, 2020

Ref: PEC 77/20

FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder.

The Provincial family, like the rest of the nations of the world, we are faced with the threat of Coronavirus. There is a sense of panic in the community. This becomes an opportunity for the people of God to bring calm to communities and speak peace to people who are worried.

The World Health Organization (WHO), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and local public health agencies, have been calling the region and the world to make preparations to adequately fight against COVID-19. Please cooperate and comply with their regulations. As a church, we strongly request that we do the following:

- Frequently clean hands using soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if your hands are not visibly dirty. Congregations should stock up on alcohol-based hand sanitizer, providing bottles at each door. Wash hands for about 20 seconds.
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with tissue. Coughing in your elbow will result in the droplets remaining in your clothing. Throw tissue away immediately and wash hands.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough. Any member who has a fever and cough should avoid the corporate worship space. If someone in the home becomes ill, other members should consider avoiding public gatherings.

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- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early, and share previous travel history with your health care provider.
- Fellowship time at worship should be limited to verbal exchanges as the authorities advise that we limit personal contact.
- Clergy are required to practice the strictest personal hygiene and ensure other volunteers to do the same.
- Keep an eye out for members in your community who are unwell and see how you might serve them and help them be restored to full health while taking all the necessary precautions.
- Our elderly, persons with lung conditions, and persons with immune system complications, are particularly susceptible to this virus.

The information and recommendations surrounding this new virus continue to unfold. Stay tuned to local media for new information and we will also do our best to update this family.

In the meantime, we pray for the persons who are sick and the families who have lost loved one from COVID-19. Our God is with us and will shepherd us through this crisis, keeping our eyes fixed on our eternal hope. Again, let us be present for people in our communities and let us inspire hope as we share the love of Jesus.

Fraternally