



COVID-19 Resources for Deacons & Church Leaders

Churches - We need you!

Churches across North America are working hard to come up with their “response” to COVID-19. Deacons are at the forefront of that effort. In this time of tragedy, our primary role is to offer hope. Hope will look and feel different in each of our communities, but hope from our perspective involves a holistic response using our head, hearts, and hands. Many of us are assessing what we can do. What are the resources and readiness of our church and members? What are the needs and gaps? Who is doing what and where is it being done? We need a plan and we need to work together. In the coming days and weeks, more information will emerge, more shape will take form, and more plans will come together. In the midst of this we need to stay flexible.

We need to be reminded of some basic principles that all churches need to follow:

1. **Be Conscientious.** People want to be heard. People have good ideas. Start with active listening. Jumping into a solution without knowing if it is beneficial, if you can sustain it, if you have the resources, or if people want it, may not be the most helpful.
2. **Be Collaborative.** You are not the only source of help in your community. Know your neighbors and your neighborhood resources. Then work together.
3. **Be Coordinated.** Develop methods for gathering data, recording it, and using it effectively. Plan and scenario plan. Work together.
4. **Be Courageous.** Know God is way ahead of you. You may feel uncertain about if or how you can help, but God is already at work. Follow!
5. **Be community minded.** Physical distancing may limit our ability to be together in person, but you are still part of a church community and your church is still part of a neighborhood community. Find ways to BE community and your plan to reflect community.

Ask Questions, Share Advice and Encouragement in our Facebook group: [World Renew Community](#)

How to Help Locally

Being Community

As your church seeks to bring shalom to your communities and neighborhoods, remember the following:

1. **Citizen-led:** Follow the guidelines of the CDC and other healthcare providers.
2. **Relationship-oriented:** While taking social distancing measures seriously, how do we seek out people in our community that need support?
3. **Asset-based:** What strengths and gifts do you or your church have to bring to this situation and to your community? What strengths are right in your neighborhood?
4. **Place-based:** Churches are key places for community. We should look out for one another, but now is a prime time opportunity to be with those in our local neighborhoods as well.
5. **Inclusion-focused:** Ask your community what is helpful. Ask community members what they can offer. Don't assume you know what the most vulnerable need.

Preparedness Guides:

[PREPARING Your CHURCH](#) for COVID-19 (Humanitarian Disaster Institute)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Church Planning Template](#) (Humanitarian Disaster Institute)

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) - Get Your Community- and Faith-Based Organizations Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) (CDC)

Responding:

[COVID-19: 5 Ways Your Church Can Respond](#) (Chalmers Center)

[Deacons, We need You! Caring for One Another](#) (The Network)

[Responding to our Neighbors' Needs - A Faith Based Response to COVID-19](#) (Wisconsin Council of Churches)

[COVID-19 Church Summit](#) (Humanitarian Disaster Institute)

Financial Support:

Does your church need funding to continue a ministry during this pandemic? (Limited funds may be available.) [Click here for information about World Renew's COVID-19 Church Response Grant opportunity.](#)

How to Help Globally

For official, ongoing updates on the status of COVID-19 in countries where World Renew works we invite you to visit our website <http://worldrenew.net/corona>

We have also established a COVID-19 fund to which churches and individuals can give. The fund will be used for both domestic and international responses.

- Locally, funds will be granted to churches needing help to continue their ministries to the most vulnerable in this difficult time
- Globally, funds will be used as a component in every one of our ongoing food assistance projects in the world, from Afghanistan, Colombia (for Venezuelan refugees), South Sudan, Bangladesh (Royhingya response), Lebanon, Syria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to provide personal protection equipment and supplementary hygiene kits for families receiving assistance.

To contribute to this fund and for continued updates, visit <https://worldrenew.net/corona>

Advocate for the Most Vulnerable

[Justice issues related to COVID-19](#) (Do Justice Blog)

[Fighting Hunger with Community in the Era of Coronavirus](#) (Civil Eats)