





SWR Conference Response to COVID-19

Executive Committee, April 5, 2020

- 
- The administration of the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 global outbreak.
 - Since the outbreak in China, the virus has spread like a plague across Europe and eventually found its way to the shores of America.

- 
- With this occurrence, the Conference Administration began talking about the potential of a global outbreak in early parts of February.
 - In the last four weeks, the Administration has taken temporary measures and actions in consultation with health leaders, the CDC and local and federal government agencies in order to assure the health and wellbeing of members, employees and communities in which we have a presence.

Southwest Initiatives



President's Initiatives and Priorities

Initiatives

- Maintain a presence in our local communities
- Being responsible to our workers, members and communities we serve
- Providing support—spiritual and moral
- Respecting the health concerns of the local community and the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy

Southwest Initiatives to COVID-19



President's Initiatives and Priorities

Priorities

Develop a systematic short-term and long-term plan to address the crisis by:

- Considering three possible financial scenarios
- Financially position ourselves for an economic setback
- Maintain minimum operational level of service
- Set a goal to move 80% of our churches to online giving
- Stay connected with local church leadership by systematically calling them to encourage, inspire, listen and pray with them

Southwest Initiatives to COVID-19



Membership Initiatives

Initiatives

- Continue serving our constituents to the best of our abilities
- Operate from remote locations
- Be guided by Conference medical/health director
- Consult with legal counsel, the CDC and local health departments
- Stay connected with local church leaders
- Keep lines of communication open

Southwest Initiatives to COVID-19

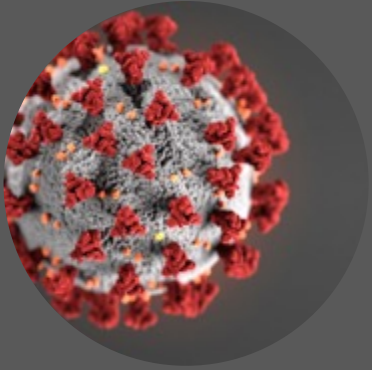


Employee Initiatives

Initiatives

- Make sure that all employees are safe and out of harms-way
- Make sure that all travel is suspended until further notice
- Any employee traveling domestic or outside of the country must self-quarantine and report it to the Human Resource officer
- Workstations established at home for office staff who continue to operate during regular office hours
- Over-time restrictions remain in effect
- Conference Administration maintains contact with its directors and administrative assistants via Zoom daily
- Administration stays connected with pastors and teachers at least once a week or as needed

Southwest Initiatives to COVID-19



Crisis Management Team Initiative

Initiatives

- A task force was organized and continues to meet twice a week at 7 p.m. and as needed.

Crisis Management Team



Crisis Management Team Initiative



Jose Acevedo, M.D.
Medical/Health Advisor



Cecil Bailey, M.D.
Medical/Health Consultant



Chris Whiteside, MPH
Health Consultant



Julian Watkins, M.D.
Medical/Health Consultant



**Raynell Smith/
Pastors**
Spiritual Advisor



**Philip Palmer/
Finance Committee**
Financial Advisor



Stephen Brooks
Resources/Information
Legal/HR



Vanston Archbold
Diversity/Communication



Buford Griffith, III
Schools & Education



Darren Lyons
Resources & Information



Chief Eric Scott
Safety Officer

Scope of Team Responsibilities

Medical/Health

Interpret medical data and advice on approaching health threats and its effects on operations and procedures at the local level.

Finances

Assess economic impact on the Conference and its ability to stay financially stable.

Resources/Information

Investigate and research all information received to determine what is true and untrue.



Spiritual

Advice on the impact of the spiritual health of the members and how to address it.

Legal/HR

Collaborate with our legal counsel to make sure that we are abiding by local, state and federal guidelines without exposing the Conference to legal litigations.

Diversity/ Communication

Make sure that the information is communicated to our diverse field, inclusively.

Timeline

Plan of Action

In an attempt to be proactive, a plan of action was developed to address the seriousness and fluidness of the COVID-19 Outbreak.

March 3	<i>Administration meets to discuss virus.</i>
March 5	<i>Pastors are to prepare to shut down churches.</i>
March 11	<i>The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a pandemic.</i>
March 12	<i>Consultation with medical personnel. Monitoring and following the advice of the CDC and the local health departments and city guidelines. All Conference events suspended until further notice. All office travel suspended.</i>
March 15	<i>Executive Committee meeting.</i>
March 16	<i>COVID-19 Crisis Management Team organized. Emergency pastors meeting. Pastors asked to setup every church for online giving and educate members on online giving options. Advised pastors to follow local government guidelines. Churches to prepare for online services.</i>
March 17	<i>Conference office employees prepare to work remotely; last day in office.</i>
March 13	<i>Schools begin shutting down.</i>
March 18	<i>Conference office transitions from on-site to remote operations.</i>
March 19	<i>Emergency Executive Committee meeting; COVID-19 Crisis Team meets; Emergency pastors meeting; Conference COVID-19 Statement posted; President's letter goes out to all members. Pastors instructed to close all buildings and setup live streaming.</i>
March 23	<i>All schools shut down.</i>
March 26	<i>Informed Executive Committee that all church buildings had shut down and churches would continue services online.</i>
April 1	<i>Crisis Team meets.</i>
April 2	<i>Meeting with pastors; they are instructed to cease all face to face small groups meetings and rely on video, phone or online meetings.</i>
April 5	<i>Executive Committee Meeting.</i>

COVID-19 Statistics

As of April 2, 7:42 PM

	World	US	Southwest Region <i>Hotspot: New Orleans</i>
Confirmed cases	1,014,673	244,678	9
Deaths	52,973	5,850	0
Recovered	199,527	9,058	0

Southwestern Union

- Sister Conferences have closed 97% of the churches.
- Union Officers meet with Conference presidents on a weekly basis.
- Union has offered to extend no interest on existing revolving fund loans for three months and reclassified designated appropriations

Source: John Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE).