



## **Statement on Coronavirus (COVID-19) March 17, 2020**

Over the past several weeks the number of cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has continued to increase in most every state across the country. The World Health Organization has declared that we are now facing a pandemic and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has refocused attention on a strategic initiative to reduce the contact that people have with each other in an attempt to stem the spread of this virus. The administration of the Texico Conference has determined that the most appropriate action at this time is to step back from our regular gatherings for work, church and school activities. The General Conference, the North American Division and the Southwestern Union are also suspending their activities, meetings and office operations.

### **Conference Office**

Effective immediately, and consistent with the public health precautions and governmental declarations, Texico Conference office staff will be required to work from home. We will make every effort to continue our regular operations in support of our members, churches and schools, however, there will not be any meetings or appointments until at least March 30, 2020. Voicemail messages left for employees at the conference office are forwarded by email to that employee. Each employee of the Texico Conference has an email account that is simply the first letter of their first name, plus their last name @texico.org. Members are encouraged to contact conference office staff, pastors and teachers as needed by telephone or email.

### **Churches**

Since the CDC announced on Monday, March 16, that gatherings are now limited to 10 people, we will not have live worship services at our churches for the next two Sabbaths (March 21 and 28). All programs or activities where the number assembled may exceed this number will also be suspended. During this time, it will be very important that we increase our use of small groups and also find creative ways to use online platforms such as Zoom or Facetime to stay connected. Pastors are encouraged to facilitate small gatherings and also provide online opportunities for members to hear about the needs and activities within their congregations. We hope that each member will receive strength, support and blessing from our church community and that they will reach out to each other via telephone, text message or email.

### **Schools**

Texico Conference schools are currently on Spring Break and we are extending that break by an additional week. At this time, we anticipate students and teachers returning to school on Monday, March 30. We will reassess this situation a few days in advance of that date and announce any change that may be required given the situation at that time.

**Conclusion**

As we make our way through this difficult and unsettling time, let us implement the precautionary measures that have been suggested for our safety. We invite every member to join with us in prayer at 7:00am and 7:00pm each day (from wherever we may be) as we ask for God's protection, intervention and blessing to be upon His people around the world.

*"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."* (Isaiah 41:10 NKJV)

May this promise bring comfort and hope to our hearts during this trying time.

**Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administration**

**Corrales, New Mexico**

**March 17, 2020**

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