Care in the Midst of COVID-19
The novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, has affected the lives of billions of people throughout the globe. In response to the health crisis, local, state and federal governments have instituted strict policies, guidance and rules designed to limit the spread of the virus. These actions have upended social norms, religious expression and ministries’ ability to serve their communities.

Yet as Christians, we know that our Creator is in control. The coronavirus did not catch our Lord by surprise. In the middle of this storm, we can stand on the Word of God. In times like these, the Church and its ministries are desperately needed to serve those who are in need, at risk or suffering.

The Alliance Defending Freedom has prepared this “Care in the Midst of COVID-19” resource to assist you, our Church and Ministry Alliance partners, in navigating legal and health challenges associated with ministering during this crisis.

As you minister on the frontlines of this crisis, know that we are praying for you and stand ready to assist you with legal counsel.

-Ryan Tucker,
ADF Senior Counsel, Director of the Center for Christian Ministries
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has recognized your essential role in communities as well. Clergy are listed under the OTHER COMMUNITY- OR GOVERNMENT-BASED OPERATIONS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS section in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance.

ADF is monitoring federal, state and local government policies, guidance and rules closely to consider the legal implications for our Church and Ministry Alliance. In the event of a violation of the law, ADF is prepared to take legal action to protect our Constitutional rights.

There are a few important principles for navigating your ministry through this crisis, including health and legal considerations.

We invite you to visit the following links:

**Federal, state and local authorities’ legal and health guidelines:**

• CISA Guidance clearly states that clergy are essential - https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce
• Center for Disease Control's (CDC) webpage on the coronavirus.
• The U.S. Small Business Administration guidance on faith-based organizations participating in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program
• John Hopkins Medicine guidance on Health Precautions for Elderly Caregiving

Helpful tools for ministering in the midst of the crisis
To engage your church live online, Facebook offers its platform for free
  • Best practices for going live on a Facebook page
  • Best practices for creating and leading Facebook Groups
  • Best practices for using Facebook for giving

The Foodbank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (a member of Feeding America) offers good ideas about providing food to those in need, including virtual food drives, finding local agencies, and implementing new ideas. See the below link for more information.
  • Foodbank Precautions and Response

Check out the following meal scheduling tools for organizing food deliveries:
  • MealTrain.com
  • TakeThemAMeal.com
  • SignUpGenius.com
  • FoodTidings.com
  • Meals on Wheels America
Legal Assistance

If you feel you and/or your ministry are being unfairly targeted by officials for ministering or serving those in need, please contact us and we will walk with you to ensure your rights are protected.

Additional information for churches is available here.

Additional information for non-profit ministries is available here.

If you have stories to share or need prayer, contact us at info@adflegal.org