



Wednesday 18 March 2020

Title: Uniting Church stands in solidarity with community in unprecedented times

Like many in our community, the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod has been actively monitoring developments in the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Our church expresses its commitment to stand in solidarity with our community, consistent with our understanding that to love our neighbour is a calling of the highest order.

We commit ourselves to supporting Government and public health policy and advice in order to assist in limiting the spread of the pandemic.

After consultation with leaders across the life of the church, **Uniting Church congregations across Queensland will cease public worship gatherings effective immediately.** We'll work where possible to implement other means to encourage and enable Queenslanders to continue to support one another practically, and to give expression to their spiritual life. Local Uniting Church congregations will make further announcements as to their own particular arrangements.

In our agencies, schools and community services, we will continue to implement all Government and public health advice. This naturally includes aged care facilities, in-home aged care, hospitals and the community and disability services of UnitingCare Queensland, and Wesley Mission Queensland and in Uniting Church schools and residential colleges.

We acknowledge the significant load that will be shouldered by our health care workers, the very real risks to vulnerable Queenslanders, and the impact of this pandemic on those working in particular industries. We recognise too the very real mental health consequences of the situation on many in our community.

We pray for you and with you. We are committed to working alongside you to limit impacts and make our contribution to Queenslanders and Queensland communities.

Blessings in the name of Christ,

Rev David Baker

Moderator, Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod

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