

March 31, 2020

Dear Friends –

I pray this note finds you safe and well. You all continue to be in my prayers.

If you or your churches are in Newark, Orange, East Orange, or Irvington, please pay attention to the new lockdown measures in place! I have asked our Communications Team from Worship Times to post that Press Release on our website.

In addition, the Synod of the Northeast leadership, which includes Warren McNeill as Synod Mission and Ministries Commission Moderator, communicated with Presbytery Leaders and Stated Clerks, part of which is pasted below.

*“We understand that presbyteries are and will be faced with churches that need financial help during this time of closed doors. We also are aware that presbyteries are in different places as it relates to reserves or moving around budget items that could be used. For the past two weeks synod staff has been working with our bank in order to make funds available. As soon as this is resolved, we will be back in touch with you. In the meantime, we would like to share with you other resources to pursue for the presbytery or with your churches. We know you may have received some of this information previously. However, in case something flew past you, it may be helpful to have it again. We commend you in particular to the Zoom webinar taking place Thursday, April 2nd at 11:00 a.m. [Central / 12 Noon Eastern] which will discuss Churches and the Cares Act.***

Here is a link to the Small Business Administration loan application. Payroll protection loans seem appropriate. <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

While this FAQ was put out by New Jersey Senator Menendez, it is relevant to all.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/3465352b601/072e8e03-cd64-4276-990a-2bbf8407d6a8.pdf>

****There are several webinars that might be helpful such as this one on Churches and Cares Act**

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3215853164914/WN_2x7BAEII57KhNETwg2UDBQ

[BARBARA'S NOTE: This webinar has already exceeded its capacity but register anyway and if you are not one of the first 5,000 to join, you will get a recording when it is available].

Also, there is one that has already taken place but can be accessed:

https://eventl.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=req20.jsp&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ey.com%2Fen_us%2Fwebcasts%2F2020%2F03%2Fus-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-cares-act-what-you-need-to-know%3Fmc_cid%3Dcb7c99f32e%26mc_eid%3D548d99e468&eventid=2244862&sessionid=1&key=1BBE83C50495A3CA52A7A29C645682A4&reqTag=&sourcepage=register

In case you have not seen the Cares Act Summary developed by Church Alliance, it is attached here.”

Lastly, late last week, Warren and I received information that grants were being made available by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for response related to this COVID-19 crisis. On Monday, in consultation with both Warren McNeill and Jerome Lane, our Community Ministry Organizer, I submitted a grant request to help with hunger needs in our area. If/When that grant becomes available, we'll be in touch!

Be well! Be safe!

Blessings –

Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Smith
Transitional Director of Presbytery Ministries