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Subject: Communication with Judicatory Executives and Executive Committee on Corona Virus and Other Matters

To our Judicatory Leaders and Executive Committee:

I know that all of us in denominational leadership positions in New York are doing our level best to offer pastoral care and support to clergy and their congregations. I have had the privilege of viewing many of your communications and perusing your regional and national websites to see what sort of advice and guidance you are offering. I very much appreciate all of your care and leadership.

The New York State Council of Churches is here to support you while offering information and counsel which will be of use to you and your congregations. In this spirit, this afternoon we published [New York State Council of Churches' Corona Virus Guide for Pastoral Leaders, Judicatories and Congregations](#). The guide is intended to build on the work already done by our denominational partners while offering guidance on how faith communities can weigh in on public policy matters which are impacting our congregations and the parishes (our neighborhoods and cities) which we serve. I invite you to use the guide as one of your many references. I have tried to synthesize information which we need to access in common given our particular New York context. The guide will be updated as we get new information about the Covid-19 crisis. Your updates and corrections are welcome since information changes daily. Please e-mail at Pcook@nyscoc.org or 508-380-8289 with corrections, updates, or new ideas which could improve the guide.

We hope our guide will serve as a helpful reference in this regard along with our legislative and public policy updates which are e-mailed weekly and posted on our website WWW.nyscoc.org. For example, we are particularly keeping our eye out for potential state cut backs in Medicaid which could disproportionately hurt the elderly and those in home based or congregate care situations. [Click here](#) if you want e-mail updates from the Governor.

Take good care. Take a walk. Rest. Eat healthy. My prayers are with you. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at 508-380-8289 or Pcook@nyscoc.org if you have questions, need information, or just want to talk.

In faith,

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*"God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."
2 Timothy 1:7*