



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

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COVID-19 Update

Greetings to you all from the team here at Unley. We are endeavouring to ensure the office stays open for as long as possible so that we can continue to support our churches through these tumultuous times. Therefore, if you visit us you are likely to experience some strict protocols and requirements – please be assured this is to provide a healthy and safe environment for our staff, volunteers, visitors and the tenants of our building.

Last night's announcement from the Prime Minister has stimulated lots of questions and quite a bit of discussion about the implications for churches.

The PM's media release states that:

The following facilities will be restricted from opening from midday local time 23 March 2020: ... Religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies)

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

Remember that context is everything. This is first and foremost about enacting the principle of 'social distancing'. It is clear from the announcement that churches must cease holding worship services where people are gathering as a public event.

It would also seem apparent in the wording, that churches must pay attention to all other forms of gathering (e.g. youth group, craft group, etc) and take seriously the call to limit the numbers of people that are interacting in one place.

While we do not yet have clear and definitive answers to many of our questions, we must be careful about taking an approach of seeking to find ways around the restrictions. We have a societal responsibility to act responsibly and wisely based upon the recommendations provided by our nation's leaders.

The challenge and opportunity is to be there for people in need and to creatively find ways to help people remain connected, even if not physically present.

Mike Mills

State Executive Minister