



# ROWANDALE

## BAPTIST CHURCH

November 6, 2020

Dear Rowandale,

I am writing to provide further information to you about our decision this week to suspend in-person services at Rowandale for the present time.

The Church Council met this week and discussed how we would proceed now that new restrictions have come into effect as a result of Winnipeg being in a Code Red Level. The immediate effect of that is that we would only be allowed 15% capacity in our services – that works out to approximately 58 people at one time; given that we have approximately 10 people in serving capacities (e.g. soundboard, video, PowerPoint, ushers, custodians, music team and pastors), that allows only about 48 attendees per service. We did consider continuing with 2 services, with lower numbers.

However, there was another aspect that we also took into account, which is that we are hearing that our medical system is operating at full capacity and being strained to the point that it will have difficulty to handle any further load, whether it is from Covid-19, regular flu or any other factors. The Health authorities are asking people to refrain from any unnecessary gatherings, even asking people to limit family get togethers as the community spread of Covid-19 has reached levels where it is out of control. In view of this critical situation, out of concern for our overburdened Intensive Care Units, front line health care workers, and vulnerable people, Council made the decision to suspend services temporarily until the situation improves.

We hope that this suspension will be short and that we can resume services soon. We will continue to monitor things regularly and will work towards reopening as soon as we feel it is safe and wise to do so.

We also discussed how we can have a Membership meeting while we are under Code Red restrictions. We normally would have a Membership meeting on November 29th, but being limited to only 58 people would mean that some would not be able to attend. Therefore, we expect to have to postpone that meeting to a later date (hopefully in December). We will also be in touch with you again on this, once we have further information to share.

We are living in challenging times, and they are requiring a lot of adjustments. May God help us to get through them gracefully, showing love and kindness to others, and reflecting the light and life of Jesus that is in us.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. Please continue to pray for our Pastors as they minister to Rowandale, stretched beyond what is normal. Please pray for the Council members as well, that God will give us His guidance and His wisdom.

Leo Jansens,  
Moderator