



29 April 2020

To All Ministers & Church Council Chairs

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Second Adjustment to Emergency Management Act: Places of Worship
Limit the Spread Directions (no 2)

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Further to my letter of 9 April, which noted that the official regulations had been adjusted to allow Places of Worship to be used for Live Streaming of worship services (10 people); for weddings (5 people) and for funerals (10 people), I have received several enquiries regarding worship services or prayer meetings of up to 10 persons in our church buildings. This follows the easing of the limitation on the number of people who could gather together announced on 26 April 2020.

Unfortunately Places of Worship remain closed in terms of the Emergency Management Act, except for live streaming, weddings and funerals with the constraints as noted above.

We have encouraged the use of the worship venue for live streaming to give the on-line congregation a sense of connection but have cautioned Uniting Church congregations NOT TO USE their Places of Worship for weddings or funerals unless they are able to ensure proper hygiene protocols both before and after the service.

It is important to understand how the new easing of the limitation on the number of people who could gather together announced on 26 April 2020 is regulated. The official wording indicates that no more than ten (10) persons may gather at the same time in a single undivided **indoor space** or a single undivided **outdoor space** that is a **public place**. If there is not at least 4 square metres of space for each person at the gathering, then no more than two (2) persons may gather.

In a nutshell,

1. Places of Worship may NOT be used for gathering, except for live streaming, weddings and funerals within certain limitations noted above.
2. IT IS POSSIBLE for congregations to have gatherings in an Indoor Space eg a home or other venue where there are not more than 10 persons present BUT there does need to be at least 4 square metres of space for each person. Where 10 people are gathered, you would need a room of 40 square metres, or a little more than 6x6 metres in size. This is quite a large room!
3. IT IS POSSIBLE for congregations to have gatherings in a Public Outdoor Space where there are not more than 10 persons present, as long as there is at least 4 square metres of space for each person.

Please pray that the restriction on Places of Worship will be eased soon and that we will all be careful enough to ensure the hygienic safety of our spaces.

God bless

Rev David de Kock
General Secretary

