



Metro Boston Hope

District of the New England Conference

February 27, 2020

Greetings Colleagues,

Preventative measures are being put in place around concerns for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak. And as most churches look forward to the first communion in Lenten worship, best practice questions are being raised. Here are recommendations:

1. Anyone administering Communion should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Those who will administer communion should refrain from shaking hands during passing of the peace.
3. A good practice for serving communion during times of heightened contagion is for a server (with clean hands!) to hold a piece of bread toward the person receiving the elements, then turn and dip it into the cup for them before actually giving it to them. This limits contact with the elements and is actually more “controlled” than distribution via individual cups.

You may find [this article](#) helpful.

The passing of the peace is another special worship act in many of our churches. Consider inviting participants during this season to exchange verbal rather than physical greetings. If touch is very important in your setting, consider introducing the “elbow bump” as an alternative. It would be thoughtful and show foresight to provide hand sanitizer and tissues in seating and gathering areas.

Health professionals recommend cleaning surfaces more frequently in common areas, bathrooms, and office spaces with soap and water or disinfectant wipes.

Please keep in mind that we are already in flu season and the same good sense precautions apply.

In addition to good practices, good Information is essential. [Here is commonsense information](#) for preparations at home that you might share with the church community as well as using to inform preparations at the church itself.

Please be aware of efforts in your community to prepare for potential outbreaks and be part of the solution of helping people who may need it. As you learn of ways to reach out, please share them so that we may all learn together.

In Christ,
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