



BAY VIEW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Above Board: Coronavirus Update

April 14, 2020

Dear Members:

Our plans for Bay View's 145th Assembly Season were as great as ever! The speakers, the classes, the performances, the worship services and the special events are activities all of us were looking forward to. But that was before the COVID-19 virus came to our shores.

We expect now that programming this summer will be limited to some degree. How limited we will not know for a while, as it will depend on the restrictions handed down to us by the State of Michigan. Just as you are doing, we are operating on a day-to-day basis in uncertain times. The restrictions we experience today are certain to change, but when they will change, and what will replace them, is uncertain.

The worst case would be to cancel all programming. We will know more about our options as we get nearer to the opening day of the Assembly Season on June 21st. However, based on contractual agreements, we will likely be forced to make some decisions before we hear from Governor Whitmer on next steps. For example, the pre-Season SOARS program has already been cancelled. Please trust that we will do our best to make the right decisions.

But Bay View is more than just our programming: it is a community where we gather with family and friends, and much more important than saving our programming is protecting the lives of those we love, members of the local community and ourselves.

The Governor of Michigan released Executive Order 2020-42 on April 9th. The Executive Order stated that by the end of day on April 10th, anyone who lives in Michigan needed to be in the residence they plan to stay in for the duration of the stay-at-home Executive Order. Given that no one can move to Bay View until April 24th, no one who lives in Michigan is able to occupy their cottage until after the current Order expires on May 1st.

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The order was written in a way to allow “snowbirds” to come back to Michigan at will, the effect of which allows anyone from outside Michigan to move into his/her cottage on April 24th with the understanding that they must shelter in place until May 1st.

But just because some of us can, should we?

We have been advised that the reason travel into Michigan was not prohibited by the Executive Order is because the Governor of Michigan cannot legally make that prohibition. Nevertheless, the Governor stated publicly in her address that people should not travel to vacation homes.

The City of Petoskey’s Mayor and other mayors in Northern Michigan have all made public statements requesting that seasonal residents delay their arrival until the Governor’s Executive Order has been lifted. The Harbor Springs Crisis Action Team has asked seasonal residents to seriously consider the health implications of coming north. Staff representing the CEO of McLaren Hospital, the City of Petoskey and Emmet County have all reached out to our Executive Director expressing concern about the virus spreading north and how our arrival would put pressure on limited hospital facilities. Keep in mind McLaren is a regional hospital who get patients from many counties in Northern Michigan, not just Emmet.

If we really want to save the lives of our family, friends, and others, then we need to follow the recommendations of the federal, state and local governments and stay where we are. North Central Michigan College has already suffered a loss due to the coronavirus, as has Bay View. People can be contagious before they show symptoms. By coming north, we risk bringing the virus with us and adding to the spread of the virus in an area with very limited resources. We risk needing treatment in an area where the number of people requiring treatment is still on the upswing, with the virus having arrived in Emmet County later than other places in Michigan, and the peak still weeks away.

If you come north, in spite of our request that you remain where you are, you should bring 14 days of food with you, as the local governmental bodies are strongly requesting that upon arrival you immediately self-quarantine for 14 days. You should also be aware that, after the 14 days of self-quarantine, accessibility of food will be questionable as Petoskey area residents are already having difficulty getting curbside pickup of groceries.

As of April 14, D&W Fresh Market has a two week wait time for grocery pick-up; Oleson’s Food Store does not offer curbside pick-up; and the Meijer website states that “no pick-up times are available.” This problem will be exacerbated if seasonal residents move north, which will force more people to go into stores to shop where the health risk is greater. (There has already been a suspected case of exposure in the Petoskey Meijer: https://www.petoskeynews.com/featured-pnr/health-department-notifies-possible-covid-19-exposure-at-petoskey-meijer-march-21-22/article_aa706925-fcd4-5ca8-873c-86dfcb161e12.html) And if you grocery shop in person, you can expect that not everyone in the grocery store parking lot will welcome out-of-state plates.

We have been advised by law enforcement that plumbers violate the Executive Order if they turn on water at your cottage because a vacation home is not considered essential or critical infrastructure. Anyone who cleans your cottage in preparation for your arrival violates the Executive Order, as would anyone you hire to do yardwork. Also, you should know that Bay View has been complying with the

Executive Order, so no spring cleanup of storm or winter debris on the streets or grounds has occurred. Additionally, no public buildings have been opened (including the Campus Club building), nor will they be opened until the expiration of the Order.

For these many reasons, your Board of Trustees unanimously agrees that you should delay your arrival in Bay View until after the Executive Order has been lifted, whenever that may occur.

For your sake and for the sake of others: STAY WHERE YOU ARE.