



**EPC**

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

**THE JEREMIAH JOURNAL**

**May 2020**

As we've continued to navigate through the historic, uncharted waters of COVID-19, I've been inspired by the incredible flexibility and resilience you have demonstrated as you've made decisive and dramatic changes quickly in the life and ministry of your church. You've acquired new skills and embraced new technologies in ways you probably never imagined. Yet through it all, your faithful and fruitful ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ is continuing. No pandemic can stop it.

You've adapted and moved forward while grieving the loss of the way things were, of church members who have lost jobs, of loved ones, friends, and colleagues who have gone to be with the Lord. Surely we are in a time in which faith is being tested and I pray, being found true and flourishing. As God comforts, guides, and provides for us we will get through this!

I'd like to share with you some ways the national level of the EPC has adapted to help serve our pastors, our churches, and our presbyteries in this exceptional time.

Led by Chief Financial Officer Pat Coelho, our Finance department has provided to 31 churches online giving capability for the very first time. This has been a huge help to those churches during this shutdown.

The Medical Benevolence Fund was revised by the National Leadership Team to provide help to pastors with medical costs who may have their compensation reduced during this pandemic.

The NLT has also authorized disbursements from our disaster relief fund for churches in dire need.

Brian Smith is helping our presbyteries and a number of our congregations conduct virtual meetings.

With Jerry Iamurri, my office is helping churches and presbyteries with guidance and provisional opinions addressing virtual worship and virtual meetings within our constitutional requirements.

In summary, as needs are being made known, we're responding as quickly as we can. On a pastoral note, let me conclude with this thought:



**EPC**

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

**THE JEREMIAH JOURNAL**

Please consider carving out the time for a too-often overlooked part of our prayer life. In addition to coming before the Lord and giving Him your adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and requests, take the time to listen—to listen for Him.

Thank you. God bless you and remember, He is risen. And right now, He reigns. He reigns in glory for His Church, for us.