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Moderator  
**Rev David Baker**

30 March 2020

Dear friends,

Whether you are supporting our future generations at our schools, looking after the ageing in a residential aged care facility, encouraging the officers and families of our Defence Force and Police Service or providing comfort and support to patients, families and staff in hospitals, the ministry of chaplaincy is critical to the life of our church in normal circumstances.

Given the unprecedented novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that our society is currently facing, chaplaincy is even more vital to the work of our church.

During this time, the Queensland Synod is following the advice of the [Australian Government](#) and [Queensland Health](#). We also provide the below advice:

- Make sure you are following all procedures and restrictions that have been put in place by your individual work worksite. While there may be some directives that will apply across contexts, there may also be context specific procedures that apply to hospitals, schools or aged care facilities.
- Many of you have access to a chapel at your worksite. For the time being, based on government advice, these are classified as places of worship and should be closed. We are working with the relevant authorities to seek exemptions and allow people to attend the chapel for reasons other than for prayer (i.e. to sit in a sacred space).
- If you feel unwell, please advise your manager and do not come to work.

Many of you are working long hours in order to make sure that those who you care for are supported during this time. We encourage you to take time to determine and apply the practices that will sustain your mental and spiritual well-being alongside your physical health. We are praying for you and with you as we work together. If you feel like you need support, please contact our Employee Assistance Provider ChangeFutures on (07) 3857 0847.

I also encourage you to refer back to the Queensland Synod [coronavirus update website](#) where you will find the latest information that has been provided to our stakeholders.

With every blessing,

Rev David Baker

Moderator

Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod

Rev Brian Hoole

Chair

Synod Chaplaincy Commission