Developing a Plan for ministry continuation

The church should have a plan for governance and decision-making, considering the inability to meet face-to-face. Conference calls might be used to conduct committee or other church business; actions would need to be confirmed at a regular meeting following the lifting of restrictions. Congregations can write specific guidelines in their standing rules concerning electronic meetings.

- **Develop a continuation of business plan**
  - Plan ways to encourage congregants to make their pledges. Give simple, clear instructions about the options open to members.
  - Talk to vendors and utility companies about reduced operations at the church due to closures.
  - Plan for continuing office operations and whether increased security will be warranted during closures. Can some employees work from home?

- **Ensure congregational care and support for ongoing community ministry**
  - Food pantry ministry – discuss a plan to continue operations within the guidelines for public gatherings and with precautions not to spread the infectious disease. Is home delivery viable?
  - Member care group - explore how to provide palliative care and nutrition support to those unable to care for themselves (because of prior conditions, the flu or other infectious disease.)
  - Meals on wheels or other home feeding programs may be expanded to accommodate additional needs.

- **Develop plans for responding to new needs as they arise**
  - How can the church provide support to families if businesses, schools and manufacturing plants close? How will the church care for the homeless and the displaced due to economic disruptions in the community?
  - How can churches work together to provide support to those affected? Can churches share parish nurses, prayer teams and Stephen Ministers?