



The United Theological College Society

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May 11, 2020

To

**All the Members of the AGM
The United Theological College
Bangalore**

Dear and Respected Members of the UTC Society,

We send you warm Greetings from the United Theological College, Bangalore and we do wish and pray that all of you might stay safe at this time of COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown. We are profoundly grateful to you for your partnership and unfailing support to the life and mission/ministry of UTC. At this juncture of nationwide lockdown, we thought it appropriate to apprise you of the activities of the college and what follows is a brief report.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown, UTC had to take some important decisions proactively with regard to the activities of the College. We postponed all college examinations and sent away BD I, II and III students on 14th March 2020. M. Th. II students were also sent away on 18th March 2020 as they completed all requirements related to their studies – including theses submission. They were individually called to the Office of the Registrar (UTC) and their College Diplomas for Master's Studies were given away by the Registrar assisted by the Dean of Master's Studies. In the same way, BD IV students were also given their College Diploma on 22nd March by the Registrar assisted by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Arrangements were made to give them the graduating gowns and to take individual photographs inside the Office, and they were asked to leave immediately. A few BD IV students, who had to complete their exams, stayed back and they were held up in the college due to lockdown. We had to wait for the decision of the Senate of Serampore College with regard to the Senate Examinations for MTh I, and by the time the Senate of Serampore College could intimate their decisions, the lockdown was announced. Hence, a few BD IV students and the entire MTh I students are held up in the college – a total of 60+ students. They are being taken care of by the college. Now they began leaving for home as the Government has made public transport available for stranded people. Since all Doctoral Students are residential, they continue with their works. Of course, the Library was closed during the lockdown and now arrangements are made for them to access the library resources with restrictions.

All community events were suspended including the Valedictory Dinner and Valedictory Service scheduled for 4th and 5th April respectively. The Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for 4th April 2020 was also suspended. However, the Members of the Executive Committee from within the College met with the President of the UTC Society on 4th April and made some important recommendations that are essential to the running of the college in the coming academic year 2020-2021. The Recommendations were circulated to the Members of the Executive Committee through emails and we received approval from most of them. A formal approval would be taken in a regular meeting of the Executive Committee. The CWRC construction work was also suspended due to lockdown and the work resumed on 6th May as some relaxation was announced by the government.

The Faculty meets periodically; reviews the situation and takes important decisions based on the emerging government directives. It was decided that the College would reopen for the next academic year on 1st August 2020 – the first 15 days might be a period of quarantine for the community. As per the directive of the Senate of Serampore College virtual classes would commence from June as per schedule. The Offices began functioning from 6th May with minimum staff and the same may be regularised in due course as per the government's directives. The Finance Department expressed acute financial difficulties as ERC and other income generating sources are completely paralyzed due to the lockdown and we envisage taking some stringent measures to tide over the situation.

Herewith, we express our profound sense of gratitude to all of you and earnestly seek your prayers and support in the days to come.


Rev. Dr. Ch. Vasantha Rao
Principal


Rev. Dr. R. Sahayadhas
Secretary