

Dear Heads of the Member Churches & Partners in God's Mission,

We are greatly disturbed by the situation that prevails across the world due to the outbreak of pandemic Covid-19.

In India, Schools and colleges are declared closed until 31st March 2020. Public transports are reduced including the train services. In some of the states, the local government has declared curfew, people are asked not to get together for any reason including for worship. Many of our Churches have suspended the Lenten and Sunday Worships and gatherings. We keep hearing more and more of closure of worships being announced by the Ecumenical Fraternity. People can enter the churches after cleaning their hands with prescribed sanitizers and are expected to pray in isolation and even this is discouraged now. The daily meal schemes for the poor children in the schools are abandoned and it affects the poor children.

As a densely populated country with minimum hygienic living condition, this outbreak of the pandemic will result in serious problems in the country. Mostly the poor and the vulnerable are suffering as always and they have lost their daily livelihood.

We are in touch with the member churches to get updates of this pandemic. Some of the member churches have suspended the worships and public gatherings and declared the closure of the central office until the situation gets better.

As the government has reduced the public transport and strictly instructed to follow "work from Home", UELCI has also suspended all the field programs, however, the staff members in and around the campus come to the office till today. As the situation is growing worse, the UELCI secretariat, obliging to the orders of the Central and State government will close the office from today (20.03.2020) until 31.03.2020. However, we are accessible online.

Meanwhile we have decided to carry on with a chain of prayer for Covid-19. We have made a prayer schedule for the staff members to pray which, we have started from today (*Please find herewith attached the Prayer Schedule*). We are planning to share one hour each to be with God in prayer. We have a great faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ who is able to provide comfort and healing for us and our loved ones in this time of fear and disease. As we are overwhelmed with health problems, bad news, or relationship struggles, the Word of God is our

only refuge and resort, thus, we look to God for help for the healing of the Nations.

"Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise."- [Jeremiah 17:14](#).

Let us uphold each other in prayers!

With Prayers,

Rev. A. Joshuva Peter
Executive Secretary
UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN INDIA &