

associational ministry update

Partnering Together in Difficult Times



Purpose In these unprecedented days, the churches of the Pike Association have risen to the challenge of adjusting to rapidly changing circumstances. The association has had to do the same. This ministry update is provided to inform members of PASB churches of past, present, and future adjustments made by the association.

Cancellations Social distancing has caused the cancellation of several PASB events since our Spring Meeting. The Free Dental Clinic, VBS Clinic, and LoveLoud have all been cancelled for 2020. In addition, the Executive Board & WMU meetings scheduled for May have also been cancelled.

Financial Adjustments Our nation is facing unemployment numbers not seen since the Great Depression. As the pandemic continues, it is expected to have a negative financial impact on our member churches, and subsequently on the association. Therefore, the association's Finance Committee has enacted a quarterly budget process. The budget for the second quarter has been reduced by 12%. Depending on the financial situation at the end of June, the budget may be reduced by as much as 35% during the third quarter. No staff reductions have been necessary at this point.

Ministry Although our circumstances have changed, the association's mission has not changed! Since this pandemic began in mid-March, we've adjusted our ministry approach and have focused on helping PASB churches adjust to our new normal in the following ways:

1. Helping churches establish an online presence in order to conduct virtual worship services and online small groups.

2. Helping churches understand the implications of the CARES Act.
3. Helping churches explore online giving options.
4. Screening and compiling COVID-19 resources and posting links to the most helpful resources on our website.
5. Helping churches prepare to regather once restrictions have been loosened.
6. Providing nightly online Holy Week services, utilizing PASB pastors and church members.
7. Providing online worship services for PASB churches without pastors.
8. Conducting Zoom meetings with PASB pastors to network, encourage, and share ideas.
9. Creating resources and writing articles, which are available on jasonalowe.com.
10. Planning how associational ministry will be most effective in a post-pandemic world.

Future Plans All current plans are held loosely as this situation continues to evolve and change. For now, we are making the following plans:

1. We will provide monthly video updates.
2. We will be collecting email addresses for all Executive Board members in order to plan for a virtual Executive Board meeting in July.
3. We will monitor our financial situation closely.
4. We will provide an online training within the next few weeks to assist churches as they prepare to regather in person.