

**UCM at UBC**  
COVID-19 Response  
March 16th, 2020



Dear UCM,

Thank you for your patience with us as we have been discerning the best way forward for our community. As a staff team, we have agreed to cancel the remaining Thursday Night (TNT) gatherings and to postpone our Grad Banquet until further notice. We are doing this in order to comply with the government's recommendation to limit large-group gatherings so as to protect those that are most vulnerable to COVID-19. We are choosing to cancel our large group gatherings, not out of fear, but out of a desire to do our part to mitigate the transmission of the virus.

As a team, we will make sure to keep informed about the day-to-day developments of the pandemic as the situation is ever changing. If, by chance, things do slow down, we are hoping to gather together for our Spring Banquet some time in May. Our plan is to incorporate a time of worship, prayer, and sharing to the Banquet so that we end this year united both horizontally as a community and vertically in our posture towards God. There will have to be changes to how we celebrate our grads as we will not be able to serve food at our Banquet. At this time, flexibility, patience, and creativity are definitely needed. We hope to celebrate the year-end together as a community but we are very aware that significant changes can occur in the span of a day, so we hold these plans with open hands.

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue meeting in your Core Groups, whether online or in-person, given that you follow the protocol outlined by the Government of British Columbia.

*“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb 10:24-25 NRSV)*

Here are a few suggestions for our community:

## **CORES**

We encourage you to continue meeting together in Cores to pray, to worship, and to dig deep into the Word of God. With that, we ask that you adhere to the following recommendations:

1. If you are *commuting into campus, sick, or if you're living with people who are immuno-compromised*, then we highly recommend that you stay home.
2. If you are unable to attend in-person, your Core Leader will invite you to attend digitally via an online platform such as Google Hangouts, Skype, Facebook Chat, or Zoom.
3. If you do meet in-person, we recommend washing of hands, not touching your face, and refraining from physical touch—we encourage you to find alternate ways of greeting one another. You can follow the government's safety guidelines [here](#).
4. If you are not yet part of a Core or need to reconnect with a Core please sign up [here](#). It is our hope that no one will be caught on the fringes during this season, so if you are experiencing isolation or loneliness, know that there are options available for you.

## **PRAYER PALS**

At the start of the semester, our prayer coordinator, Andy Kim, started an initiative called Prayer Pals, encouraging our community to pray together in pairs. We encourage you to pray for one another, for those closest to us, for God's guidance for our leaders, for the protection of our community, and for the spread of the virus across the globe to slow. If you would like to intentionally pray with someone from our community, you can sign-up and we will be happy to connect you:

<https://tinyurl.com/ucmpals>

## **G-HOUSE**

As the Gerard House is the primary residence for seven students, we are closing the G-House to the general public and the larger UCM community for the time being . If you need something from the G-House, please get in contact with one of the residents.

## **PASTORAL SUPPORT**

If you are feeling isolated, or in need of practical assistance, please feel free to message the UCM at UBC staff team at [staff@ubc.ucmonline.ca](mailto:staff@ubc.ucmonline.ca).

As a staff team, we encourage you to not give up meeting with one another, but to continue to spur each other on towards love and good works. We also encourage you to not be anxious about anything, but in everything, with prayer and petition, to submit your requests to God; we trust that the peace of Christ, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7). We are definitely in uncertain times, but be of good hope: Christ is our Immanuel, God-with-us, and our peace and security are in Him. Let's continue holding on to the hope of Christ, trusting that Jesus is in control amid the chaos that surrounds us. He is the Solid Rock upon which we stand.

We love you, and we are praying for you, UCM! We are called to live out Christ's love and be His light for such a time as this. Let's be people of hope, people of prayer, and let us not give in to the fear around us. Let's hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, trusting that in Christ, we have life everlasting, and through Him, we are able to weather whatever storm life might bring.

With love,

The UCM Staff Team