Dear [church name] Congregation,

Grace and peace to you all in these unsettled times. The deacons are called to serve by leading and equipping the church to awaken compassion, demonstrate mercy, and seek justice. We are further directed to promote stewardship and hospitality and develop programs of assistance. I write this letter to help fulfill those callings.

First, please practice hospitality as you are able in these times of physical social distancing. Hospitality often takes the form of gatherings. But that is not an option right now. Reach out to one another in your household via all the ways are your disposal: phone, text, Skype, Zoom, social media platforms, etc.

Second, consider how you might continue to give to the [General Fund, Christian Education Fund, and Mission Fund]. All these areas directly support crucial ministry in these times. You can mail checks to [church name & address] or you can contact [name and email address] about ongoing Automatic Withdrawal Authorization (donation form attached). You can either adjust the amount that is withdrawn or begin the process. Additionally, we are working to accept online donations. More information will follow.

Third, we anticipate needs for Benevolence assistance may increase. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you might support the Benevolence fund the deacons use to meet immediate needs of our members and neighbors. Donations are accepted via mail or automatic withdrawal. If you are in need of this assistance, please contact your household deacon, elder, or the pastors.

Fourth, our congregation has partnered with local organizations in the past to do ministry together. The deacons recommend these organizations that are providing programs of assistance.

1. [Local foodbank and website donation form]
2. [Local nonprofit providing food for children and their families, and web donation form] and donate here: <https://www.communitykids.org/donate>
3. [Family Promise/nonprofit sheltering homeless families, website]

Finally, we will continue to highlight our regularly scheduled special causes in the weekly bulletin. We will include a link to their online giving site. You may also send those donations to church and we will get them to that organization.

We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. We encourage you to reach out to one another and work together to show Christ’s love to each other and your neighbors.

In service,

[Church name] Deacons