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March 19, 2020

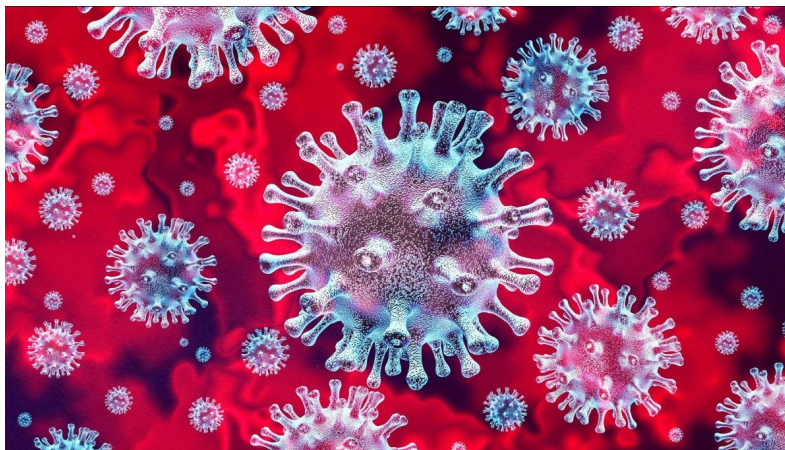


# Lake Union HERALD

THIS WEEK

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

General Conference Session postponed to May 2021; Conferences, churches, schools closed, as virtual is the new reality; Will the world economy collapse?



## World Church Executive Committee Votes to postpone General Conference Session

The Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (EXCOM) voted March 19, to [postpone the 2020 General Conference Session until May 2021](#).

The vote comes after a March 17 recommendation from the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM) to delay the 2020 General Conference Session (GC Session) by up to two years due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 General Conference Session will be held in Indianapolis and is currently scheduled from May 20 through May 25. It was originally scheduled from June 25 through July 4, 2020.

## Local conferences respond to coronavirus threat

### **INDIANA asks churches to follow CDC and cancel events involving 50 people or more until early May; Set aside Day of Prayer and Fasting this Sabbath; plan to reopen office Monday**

"We ask that you follow CDC recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov> ) and Lake Union protocols, such as no potluck meals, no communion services, freely available soap dispensers and hand sanitizers, declaring the church a no-handshake zone, placing offering plates at the back doors of the church rather than passing them through the congregation, and general precautions against congregating in close quarters. In addition, any person who has traveled to a COVID-19 "hot zone" should avoid public worship, as well as those over 60 and those with chronic serious health conditions.

Sensing our great need, our conference team is inviting all our churches and members to hold a Day of Prayer and Fasting this Sabbath, March 21."

### **ILLINOIS schools close until end of March, churches close until further notice; office personnel work from home**

More details below:

1. **All Illinois Conference schools are closed until March 30th.** Our Conference Education department has been working with our schools to insure a smooth transition from At-School Instruction to In-Home Instruction.
2. **All Illinois Conference events have been cancelled through the end of May.** Conference Personnel Committee and Executive Committee meetings scheduled for April will be held in a manner to be determined.
3. **The Illinois Conference Office is closed to the public until March 30th.** Office personnel will be working from home, and you may contact them via email. The Conference phone line will be manned off-site.
4. Due to government guidelines regarding the number of people who may assemble, **we are MANDATING that all church services be suspended** until further notice.
5. We encourage pastors/churches who can stream a Sabbath services to do so, and for pastors of churches who do not have this availability, to partner with another church to help their members stay connected on Sabbath mornings.

### **LAKE REGION schools close until further notice; churches transition to online; worship service preached by conference president will be streamed this Sabbath; office staff work remotely**

The details:

- All LRC schools are closed for the immediate future. Instruction will be delivered via technology.

- International and domestic travel of LRC personnel have been barred.
- Due to government guidelines regarding the number of people who may assemble, we are **MANDATING** that all church services be suspended until further notice.
- This coming Sabbath, March 21, an online worship service with guidance and instruction from Conference leadership, and the Word of God preached by your humble servant, will be streamed. We encourage all LRC members and friends to join us online. Details of the service, including the link and start time, are forthcoming.

### **MICHIGAN asks churches to close their doors for the remainder of March; staff will transition to work remotely**

"Earlier this week on Tuesday, [we stated that churches could physically meet as long as the shared space had 50 or fewer members](#) in compliance with the corresponding state [executive order](#). However, we are now asking that all churches close their doors through the month of March and have your members worship via live-stream ([see options](#)) in their homes. Out of a deep sense of duty and responsibility to our most vulnerable members and community, we urge all members to adhere to the [mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC](#) and [limit gatherings to 10 or fewer individuals](#).

We have also closed the conference office out of an abundance of caution. All office personnel will work remotely through the month of March and will be able to receive phone calls to the office. We are also working towards developing various ministry and outreach initiatives to reach our communities during this time.

Also, the Lay Advisory scheduled for Sunday, March 22 and the Michigan Conference Executive Committee scheduled for March 24 have been postponed. The tentative plan is for Lay Advisory to meet on April 5 and for the Executive Committee to meet on April 7 via ZOOM or teleconference."

### **[COVID-19 RESOURCE PAGE](#)**

### **WISCONSIN churches to close until further notice; staff transitions to work remotely**

"Effective immediately, all churches are to remain closed, until notified that we may open them again. All church events should also be cancelled, or should be done remotely using the phone, Facebook, etc.

Beginning March 18, 2020, the Wisconsin Conference Office building will be closed until further notice, while office employees continue to work remotely from their homes. Phone messages to the office number may be accessed from employee cell phones and will be answered as soon as possible.

With the rapidly changing pace of new protocols and guidelines from state and federal authorities regarding the spread of COVID-19, please check our

## Gospel singer Sandi Patty reveals coronavirus diagnosis following Andrews University show

Five-time Grammy Award winner Sandi Patty tested positive for the coronavirus, her announcement coming 10 days after performing at Andrews University in Berrien Springs.

Patty announced her positive test Tuesday night in videos posted to social media. [READ MORE](#)

## Lake Union to reopen on Monday

The [Lake Union office building was temporarily closed](#) for sanitizing. The move was necessary after participants in the Lake Union Prayer Conference in Indianapolis last weekend (March 6-8) were notified via email on March 13 that an attendee had subsequently exhibited flu-like symptoms, and was tested for the coronavirus. The results of that test are unknown. In the meantime, the husband of the attendee who was tested provided details in a [social media post](#) which sheds some light on why health officials are not considering their case a high priority.

## Lake Union Pathfinder Bible Experience cancelled

Craig Harris, Lake Union Pathfinder Ministry coordinator [said](#) they were saddened to make this announcement, "but it is in the best interest of the Lake Union families that the decision had to be made. We have labored on different ways we could implement the test, but with the directives from Federal, State, County, and Conference leaders directing us to caution, we thought it best to cancel the event."

## Perspective Essay

Will there be a world economic collapse? Indiana Conference Treasurer/ Executive Secretary, Mark Eaton gives his take.

"For years, some economists and government leaders have been predicting a complete collapse of the world economy. Some evangelists and laypeople have been predicting that such a collapse will initiate the time of trouble.

Well, what about it? Is it true? Are the current market declines the beginning of the financial collapse that many have been predicting for so many years? Does the Bible have anything to say about this?" [READ MORE](#)

## Sharing the Journey, Lake Union faith through podcasts

If you have some extra time on your hands while you're home, now is probably

## Planets, moon providing predawn entertainment

For those stuck at home this week, the planets and our moon are providing some early morning entertainment, [AP reports](#).

Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and a crescent moon are clustered together in the southeastern sky this week just before daybreak. Mercury will peek above the horizon.

Have a good weekend!

What's inside this month's *Herald*

# Lake Union HERALD

MARCH 2020



FRUITFUL STEWARDSHIP  
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