

Conference-wide Communication

February 24, 2021

Dear Pastor/leader,

While the last year has presented us with many challenges and disappointments because of the pandemic, one encouraging development we have witnessed is how beautifully the Body of Christ has practiced mutual aid to address some of the hardships COVID-19 created. Since LMC launched the Coronavirus Relief Fund nearly one year ago, ***\$155,000 of relief has been awarded to help those in need***, thanks to the generosity of LMC congregations and members who have enough and can share with those who are in need.

As COVID persists, the LMC Deacon Fund Committee continues to receive applications for Coronavirus Relief from our brothers and sisters in need. If your congregation is experiencing a need go to the LMC website for the application. (<https://lmcchurches.org/coronavirus-relief-aid-application/>). A majority of the funds received go to LMC congregations to meet the needs of the congregation and/or members in the congregation.

We are aware that some of you have the benefit of employment and a life that has largely returned to normal. However, that is not the case for others and we want to continue to highlight this opportunity to share in the needs of others.

Testimonials:

"We are in a very needy situation, it is very sad to hear the pain and suffering the pastors, and people from the churches are experiencing. Whatever we can do to help I know it will be a great blessing."

"Assist church members who are not presently employed to pay their rent, buy food and pay medical expenses. Since our congregation has not been meeting since March, our Sunday offerings have been greatly reduced."

"Several brothers and sisters are currently without a job, because of that they can't give tithes or offerings which help the church to pay rent and bills and also they are having a lot of issues paying utilities, mortgage, and rent."

LMC Coronavirus Relief Stats:

- *\$155,000 in relief funds distributed.*
- *38 Congregations received assistance*
- *98 Congregations and Individuals gave gifts to the fund.*
- *Funds used for member needs; food, medical, rent, funeral costs, etc.*
- *Funds used for congregations; pastor salaries, budget deficits, community outreach, food, church mortgage, utilities, etc.*

We would appreciate you sharing this need with your congregation. Feel free to modify and use the following as a bulletin announcement:

As COVID-19 persists, LMC continues to receive requests for aid from our congregations in need. Please consider contributing to the LMC Coronavirus Relief Fund as an expression of one of our core values - mutual aid within the body of Christ. Contributions can be sent to LMC, 2160 Lincoln Highway East, Box 5, Lancaster, PA 17602 earmarked for the Coronavirus Relief Fund, or, use the Donate tab found on the LMC website (<https://lmcchurches.org/donate/>), select the Coronavirus Relief Fund to make contributions electronically. Thank you!!

May we be encouraged through this experience to strengthen the connection between our faith and our finances as modeled in Romans 15; *I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.* May the Lord bless this effort to live as disciples of Jesus.

Your servant in Christ,

L. Keith Weaver

Moderator

