

20 March 2020



Dear Students,

The COVID-19 crisis has been changing daily. As you know, positive cases of COVID-19 have been found within the State of Michigan. We are thankful for your patience during this ever-changing time, and are thankful to report that there are no known cases of the virus within the Grace community. Daily, the University leadership is monitoring the information coming out, and deliberating regarding the best course of action on behalf of the students and others on our campus.

In recent days, the CDC and the State of Michigan have advised against all groups meetings of ten people or more. The guidelines and others yet to come move us to make hard decisions regarding our student housing and dining services. **Dining services and all residence halls will close for the remainder of the semester at 6:00 pm, Sunday, March 22. All students and their possessions need to be removed from campus by this time.** Students with extenuating circumstances who may need housing should apply for a housing extension through the below form.

Classes which normally meet on campus will continue online through the rest of the semester. We believe it is unrealistic to anticipate returning to campus this semester. Faculty have done a great job shifting to an online format. Our hope and prayer is that each student will be able to thrive in this new educational environment and meet your learning goals. **The Bultema Memorial Library will also close as of Sunday, March 22. Students needing specific library materials for their coursework will be able to make an appointment to receive those resources (please contact Erinn Huebner: ehuebner@gracechristian.edu).**

Furthermore, all student activities have been cancelled for the rest of the semester, including the graduation banquet and the graduation ceremony. Grace is actively pursuing other options for celebrating our 2020 graduates and information will be shared as plans are made. We have been praying earnestly for all students, including our seniors, who will not get the opportunity to celebrate in the traditional ways that others have enjoyed in the past. We will all be missing out on these celebratory times together and we will be working hard to think of alternate ways to commend the hard work that our seniors have shown!

We know that in the midst of these changing times of confusion we all can faithfully trust in a God who is Sovereign and unchanging. We take refuge in knowing that God is in control and can celebrate that He is stronger than this pandemic. Staff, faculty and students have shown a resiliency that will not only meet the challenges ahead, but will send us right through to the finish line as Grace continues to fulfill its mission of graduating Godly individuals prepared to serve Christ in church and society!

Our prayers will be with each of you and your families,

President Ken B. Kemper