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Dear Community Ministries;

Grace and peace to you, in the love of the Creator, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, and in the peace of Christ.

I wanted to take a moment to particularly connect with those of you who serve in ministries with the wider community, at this time. The changes that Covid-19 are forcing on everyone are difficult, but I realize that they have a particular reality in your context.

As a ministry that offers support to some of the most vulnerable people in the community, what you do, in the best of times, is extremely important work – living out Matthew 25 call that our faith be lived in acts that support life, especially for those in need. I recognize, too, that your ministry is one of the hardest to make work with physical distancing rules, and may not easily be done over the internet, or with increasing social isolation.

I am also certain that you are doing everything you possibly can to continue to support your people, our neighbours, family and friends, with your love and whatever actions can possibly be taken to continue that work.

My prayers are for those of are hurting and scared, those who rely on services that are having to close, and those who will find themselves quickly in need.

My prayers are also for you, those who minister in the midst of this crisis – that you will remain healthy, that you will care for yourself, even as you care for those folks with whom you have been called to minister. I would like to invite you to a pastoral conversation to hear how you are coping and how we as a community of followers may accompany you and your communities. You will be receiving an invitation in a separate mail.

May we find tangible ways of supporting each other – and all of God's world - in this time, and in the days to come, and may we know that, no matter what, as we "love and serve others," as we "seek justice and resist evil," as we "proclaim Jesus," with our words and our actions, we will find a way through this, together.

God is with all creation.

We are not alone.

Christ's peace,

Richard Bott (The Right Reverend)
Moderator / Modérateur

