

March 20, 2020

Dear Seminary Community,

This communication serves to update the community on the latest actions being taken by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in response to the spread of COVID-19. As has already been communicated, starting Monday, March 23, 2020 all classes will move to online. The decision to not meet in person together is to do what has been suggested by the government and ordered by the state government. Students who live on campus will not be asked to move or to stay away. Those who have traveled overseas or who have been in contact with people who have been overseas or who have been sick are expected to self-quarantine for 14 days following the CDC guidelines.

Staff, faculty, janitorial staff, and food service staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of our community by working remotely, taking extra care in cleaning and sanitizing, and finding appropriate ways to ensure continued food service for those folks still on campus. Keeping one another safe and slowing down the spread of the virus depends on all these efforts. Essential employees only are to work in their respective offices. Essential employees is meant to mean anyone who has a need to be physically at work, either because access to pieces of their job can only be done while in their office or because of the need to attend to the seminary property. All other faculty and staff are to work remotely.

Instruction

All instruction will be conducted through means other than meeting face to face in class. This may look different from class to class. All students will have the opportunity to complete the classes they are currently registered for.

For any student needed an accommodation, you are to contact the Academic Dean.

Residences

Campus housing in Currie, McCoy, Anderson, and the Duplexes remains open. Following the orders from the State of Texas, everyone should be social distancing and not have groups of more than 10, whether that is indoors or outdoors.

Food Service

Beginning Monday, March 23, Southern Foodservice will be offering carry out breakfasts and lunches. Weekly menus will be distributed along with a sign-up genius to place orders for meals. The foodservice staff has taken great steps and followed the health departments guidelines to ensure the safety of our food. Being able to offer meals to our community helps to keep us from going out into public areas, and helps a small business remain operational. Please consider taking full advantage of this offering.

Campus Operations

Staff members are to continue to work remotely except when they are needed to be present to support the Seminary's core priorities of: 1) providing support for the Seminary's education mission, especially as it relates to moving to an online model; 2) maintaining critical services on

campus such as utilities, administrative functions, IT support; 3) support of students who are living on campus or rely on the Seminary services.

Meetings and Events

All on-campus meetings and events have been cancelled through April 5, 2020. Some events have moved to some sort of on-line meeting format. This includes all committee meetings, faculty meetings, and student class and senate meetings.

At this time the administration is exploring options for a scenario that would include the continued cancellation of events through the end of the school year. There has been no decision with respect to graduation, but that decision will need to be made well in advance in order to give students and family the time to make or break travel plans.

– Heather Zdancewicz