

March 17, 2020

To Eden Students:

Greetings in this most unusual of Lenten seasons. This reading week is unlike any other, in that you are surely making adjustments to the changes brought on by the coronavirus. The faculty and staff at Eden are also making adjustments. In fact, with each new day we are needing to make even more changes. With this email I want to bring you up to date on our work and planning.

First, of all let me say that you are daily in our prayers. We pray that you and your family are well. We pray that your churches and communities are held by God's care in these anxious days. The faculty and staff and trustees are praying for you and will continue to do so.

As you know, we made the decision to move from face to face classes, chapel and community life, to remote versions of these. Last Thursday, I announced that we would not meet again until April 13. While no decisions have yet been made about that date, I can tell you that the Center Disease Control advised May 15 as the earliest date to resume face to face gatherings. Over the next few days we will be evaluating the best way to resume and will let you know what is planned.

During these days, faculty and staff have been busy working on converting classes and assignments into new formats. Christopher Grundy and Paul Vasile have been working on versions of chapel and worship life. Dean Williams has been working on connecting us together in creative ways. And Katie Hotse-Wilton has been working like crazy helping everybody with the technical challenges of Zoom, remote phones, and on and on. This is just to name a few of the good things folks are doing to adapt.

As you can see, although the seminary buildings are mostly quiet and empty, the seminary is far from closed. We are all working hard and working together, even if we are working from home. In order to do our part in reducing the spread of the virus, we are actively encouraging our staff to work remotely. The big exception is our maintenance staff who are deep cleaning classrooms and offices and supporting the ongoing needs of campus residents. It is for this reason that we are going to lock the buildings to the general public. If you need to use the Reading Room or access your campus mail you may use your key-fob to do so.

Please stay in touch with our faculty and staff. Stay in touch with each other. And stay healthy.

Yours in Christ,

David Greenhaw
President, Eden Theological Seminary