

Thursday 16 April 2020

Dear Coro church family,



CoroUniting  
CHURCH COMMUNITY

**Re: Church finances, generosity and the opportunities of our current situation**

As we all know, it has been a huge time for our church and community, not to mention the whole world. We have experienced change in every part of our church life, and every part of our lives. We grieve this.

However, we also are convinced as a Council that our God still reigns: our Heavenly Father is still on his throne, the ascended Lord Jesus is still overseeing his church and the Spirit is always with us and gives us gifts for the building up of his church. We are convinced also that the Church is, as always, at the centre of God's plans for this world.

Just as in the early church, as Simon reminded us recently (Acts 2), generosity and giving are always a key part of our discipleship, and of our life together as a church. At this time, we obviously are not able to pass offering bags around at physical gatherings, which necessitates some changes to our giving. We are conscious that this crisis will impact different people in our community in very different ways:

*Decreased capacity to give*

Some of us will have considerably less capacity to give, especially those of us who have lost work or have reduced hours. If this is you, please prayerfully decrease your giving as you must, and know that we trust that God will provide for our needs. The heart with which you give is far more important than the amount. If you are struggling significantly and need financial help, our 'Breathing Space' initiative (described below) enables us to make discrete connections between people in need and willing congregation members.

*Increased capacity to give*

There will be others amongst us who unexpectedly find ourselves with an increased capacity to give during this time. For those in stable jobs, many of the usual opportunities to spend money have ceased: holidays, eating out, gym memberships, kids' activities, going to the cinema and many more things. If you find yourself currently with a great capacity to give, at least in the short-term, we would like to ask you two things:

1. **Would you prayerfully consider whether you are able to begin or increase regular electronic giving to Coro, at least during this crisis and/or while others are less able to give?** If your financial circumstances don't allow you to confidently commit to increased regular giving, are you in a position to give a one-off gift to help tide us through this time?  
  
→ *If yes, please see below to begin or increase your electronic giving.*
2. **Would you be willing to be approached about financial needs within the congregation, as part of 'Breathing Space' (details below)?**  
  
→ *If yes, please let us know by emailing [treasurer@corouniting.org](mailto:treasurer@corouniting.org). If you've previously put up your hand to be on this list, we will assume that continues unless you let us know.*

## Update to electronic giving at Coro

At this time, it is obviously difficult to give cash to the church. We are therefore encouraging everyone who gives to Coro to do so online. If you are already giving electronically – thank you! This is a great help especially at this time. If you are not already giving electronically and would like to, there are two options for doing this:

### Regular electronic transfer (EFT)

This is our preferred method and is set up through your bank:

BSB: 805 007

Account number: 00 706 438

Name: Coromandel Valley UCA

### Online giving by credit/debit card

Another easy-to-use method for giving, which can include one-off gifts, is via Redde. Visit [corouniting.org/give](http://corouniting.org/give) or use the 'Give' menu option in our app to give a one-off or recurring gift using your credit/debit card and mobile phone

Both these methods are also detailed on our *Giving* web/app page under *Church Life >> Giving*.

If you need help with either of these methods, you can contact either Christine Edwards (0417 848 972) or Peter Hocking (8278 6022) from the Finance Committee, who will be happy to assist you in a confidential manner. David Buxton can also assist with any questions re. the new web/app facility Redde.

Most of our giving goes towards paying staff salaries, and we are particularly concerned as a Council to be pastorally caring well for our staff at this time. Our staff are working incredibly hard to serve and care for us pastorally, and to work out how our church can be 'A people focused on Jesus': to worship online in a brave new world, to continue building each other up without meeting physically, demonstrating the justice of God by caring for those who are the most vulnerable and isolated in our society, and proclaiming the good news of Jesus to those who are vulnerable, lonely and without salvation or hope.

Council is carefully considering its budget decisions during this time and will continue to monitor these, and particularly expenses which are not incurred because of our changed meeting patterns. We will continue to keep you updated about our church finances over the coming months.

With thanks for the fellowship that we share in Christ,

CoroUniting Church Council

(Wes Chambers, Sam Cheeseman, Simon Dent, Steve Kaesler, Cat Patrick and Jenny Wichert)

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### Breathing Space

A system for administering financial needs in our congregation in a discrete and appropriate way. People with financial need are able to approach Council members, staff or the pastoral care team to express a need. At least two people from these teams will meet to hear the details and circumstances, and if they are in agreement, the need is to be anonymously communicated to a list of people who have volunteered to receive such requests. Those who receive the request will have opportunity to prayerfully consider whether they are currently in a position to give.

### 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.