We had a very good meeting with pastors in our Association this morning to discuss the Covid-19 virus and related issues, especially as it relates to the challenges and needs and policies of our churches. We also discussed ways we can help one another and minister to our communities.

There was not unanimity of perspective or approach, but there was great unity around a cooperative spirit, our reliance upon the Lord, and our need to collaborate and support one another.

Different perspectives exist on churches gathering or not, interpretations of what are guidelines and what are legal bans, and even on the best approach(s) to handle this pandemic. I feel  
strongly, especially having lived and worked overseas in communist and totalitarian countries, about not giving up our right to assemble as believers.

However, it was not the intent of my exhortation to attack or offend pastors or others with a different perspective. I and the Association want to be supportive and helpful and pull together to navigate this critical time.

At the request of pastors we will be holding a weekly gathering of ministers and church leaders to share ideas, information, ways to cooperate and assist, and pray together. Times and places to be shared soon. We will be posting in online forums helpful information as well as through our Association communication channels.

May the Lord grant us peace and courage, wisdom and assistance, quell this virus and help us provide for the needs of people.

Our next gathering for pastors to discuss coronavirus response and share ideas is Friday morning, 8:30 at Corner Café in Independence.

Things to share from this morning:

* Outreach ideas –
  + Delivering groceries
  + Pull-over for Prayer (Jesse Frazier’s idea)
  + Online streaming services with worship guides for home or small group gatherings. Reminder that we provide every pastor RightNow Media subscription which might be helpful now. If you haven’t subscribed yet, let us know.
  + Encourage churches to reach out to other churches in your area to share technology, expertise and resources.
* Additional meetings
  + Weekly gatherings to share updates and ideas
  + Dates and locations to be determined
* Communication
  + If you are not currently a member of the BR-KC Pastors Network Facebook group, let Jennifer know. Once you are a member you can post questions, comments, concerns within that group.
  + Central repository being created on BRKC website to share information and resources and cooperative ventures.

It was announced last night that events and gatherings with 50 or more people will not be allowed in Kansas City for the next eight weeks, according to Mayor Quinton Lucas. Jackson County Executive Frank White Jr. said he "will now prohibit" groups of 50 or more.

However, President Trump just announced new federal guideline of no gatherings of over 10. You have to decide for yourself if you will live within that suggested limit. We think we can expect state and local authorities to follow suit shortly.

We stand ready to assist. We are looking into additional funds that will help you minister to your churches and your communities.