

Outreach and Mission in the Time of COVID-19

Aisha N. Huertas
Minister for Missional Engagement
Diocese of Virginia
ahuertas@thediocese.net

How to do Outreach and Mission Well Today

Be prepared to provide information and offer assistance to access government programs

- Virginia 211 has access to lots of useful information about unemployment and snap
 - <https://www.211virginia.org/consumer/index.php>
- Understand things like who and how people will receive the one-time stimulus check provided by the CARES Act.

How to do Outreach and Mission Well Today

Organize to provide protective equipment for medical personnel and people in need

- Check in with your local shelters
- Direct request for N95's, surgical masks and/or cloth masks with pockets for filters from Physicians and Midwives in Northern Virginia
 - Contact: Kathleen Bell, Nurse practitioner, by text at 804.514.8898

How to do Outreach and Mission Well Today

Donate Blood

- You can organize a virtual blood drive and have people check-in through social media when they arrive at their local blood bank to donate.
 - Find your local blood bank
 - <https://americasblood.org/for-donors/find-a-blood-center/>

Feeding Ministries

At the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus said: “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” (Matthew 14:15)

- Volunteer at or donate to local food pantries and banks
 - Check in with other churches in your area
 - Federation of Virginia Food Banks
- Underground Kitchen Info and Update – The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose
 - For more info on the program, Barbara’s email: cats4cats@comcast.net
- Calvary Front Royal Feeding Ministry – The Rev. Valerie Hayes
 - For questions and best practices, Valerie’s email: vhayescalvary@gmail.com

Domestic and International Mission

The challenge of COVID-19 does not mean we stop doing mission. We pray. We think of safety. We think creatively.

List Your Ministries Online at [EpiscopalAssetMap.org](https://episcopalassetmap.org)

- Let the Diocese and the Episcopal Church know what you are doing.
- Visit the website to update your church's profile
 - Contact Aisha Huertas for technical assistance, ahuertas@thediocese.net

Domestic and International Mission

You can still be in touch and nurture relationships by:

- Phone Calls
- WhatsApp – Especially useful for foreign contacts
- Emails
- Facebook and Instagram
- Zoom/Skype
- Prayer
- Virtual Service
- Letters/Art
- Video messages/reflections
- Share Stories of hope and love
– Let us know what you are doing.
- Follow Global Partnerships and Global social media.