

**COVID-19 Update**  
**3/11/20**

Dear Meadville Lombard Community,

We have been monitoring the spread of COVID-19. During the last few days, we have been in intentional discussions developing contingency plans that prioritize the health of our community members while also balancing our commitment to excellence in theological education. According to health organization experts, we know that the best way to slow the spread of the virus is to minimize exposure. In light of this reality, we have made the decision to hold our Spring Intensives courses online ONLY.

More specifically:

- Faculty will be providing their courses in full using Zoom. Dial-in information will be provided to students soon. We ask your graciousness in advance understanding that this will be a different learning experience.
- Worship will be offered to begin each week of Intensives, as usual.
- BYOLs will also be offered. A full schedule of Intensives activities, including dial-in information, will be posted soon.
- Effective Monday, March 16, MTLs staff will be allowed to work from home at their discretion. This flexibility will be reviewed each week to determine if it will be provided the following week. Students will be able to reach any staff member during normal business hours primarily by email.

We understand that there may be costs involved with cancelling flights and housing arrangements and are hopeful that the airlines and housing providers will be generous. If there is a need to provide confirmation to a vendor that in person classes have been cancelled, we can make it available. If this is the case, please contact Kay Watson ([kwatson@meadville.edu](mailto:kwatson@meadville.edu)). We anticipate returning to normal operations as soon as the COVID-19 threat has ended or become more manageable. We will keep the community updated.

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to determine the best response to this rapidly changing situation. We know that our intensives provide a cherished space to gather with friends and colleagues for mutual support, encouragement and fellowship. While we may not be face to face, we urge you to be as intentional and collegial with your Meadville Lombard colleagues. We look forward to seeing you in person at the next opportunity!

In faith,



Elias Ortega