COVID-19 Message from Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries

Dear Friends, Parents, and Participants,

Please know that the Heartland Conference is committed to the well-being of each camper, volunteer and staff member. We hope that you are healthy and well, and we are praying for you every day. We are also monitoring the Covid-19 situation closely, as this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and are listening to the CDC and local government’s updated guidance and regulations. Templed Hills is currently closed, cleaning and preparing for future events. Staff are using cleaning products that are approved by the CDC to combat Covid-19. The installation of the labyrinth workday scheduled for April is being postponed. Once it is safe to gather again, we will reschedule it and let you know.

We encourage everyone to practice the recommended physical social distancing, virtual social closeness, personal hygiene practices and to stay home, except for essential trips. I am hopeful that if we do this right this spring, we can contain the virus appropriately and we can resume normal social interactions in person this summer, including summer camp.

Currently, all our 2020 Summer programs are still on! We are planning for summer camp with the assumption that it will happen normally, and we hope that you will too. After this long period of isolation, we will need camp more than ever. Plan to join us as we reconnect. Please know we will not cancel any program until it is much closer to camp and according to CDC and local government recommendations or regulations.

Because we are in such uncertain times, in order to help you register with confidence, we have updated our registration procedures as follows:

- If the Heartland Conference makes the decision to cancel a program, you will receive a full refund (including deposit).
- Understanding you may be waiting to make your summer camp registrations we are extending our April 15 early bird discount to May 15, 2020.
- Payment in full deadline will be extended from May 15 to May 31, 2020.
- In the event you need to cancel your registration due to illness or circumstances related to Covid-19, you will receive a full refund (including deposit).
- T-shirts must still be ordered and paid for by May 10th. They will still be purchased, money retained, and available for you even if sessions are cancelled.
- If you are scheduled to come to Templed Hills as part of a church retreat or event, please contact your group coordinator for updated plans regarding your event. Group coordinators, please contact UCCR with updates and changes. They will work with you if you need to reschedule due to COVID-19.

Please register for summer camp today at https://heartlanducc.campbrainregistration.com/.

Please know that because camp happens in a close community, we have always taken great care to develop and maintain medical practices to address a variety of communicable diseases. We are actively examining and updating our pre-camp and arrival day screening procedures that we implement each session to reflect the current best practices recommended by public health authorities. We will make participants and parents aware of any major changes to these procedures that could affect their participation as we get closer to camp.

We are committed to keeping you updated of any changes in our plans, policies, or procedures. As stated previously, we will continue to monitor the situation, including the recommendations
on gatherings. Watch our website for a frequently updated FAQ&A section. If restrictions are extended and we need to make adjustments, we will keep you in the loop via Conference e-newsletters, social media, direct emails to registered participants, and our website www.heartlanducc.org. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at jill@heartlanducc.org or 740-901-0734.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. We pray for good health and well-being to you and your family. Looking forward to connecting with you this summer.

Peace,

Jill

Jill C. Frey
Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries
Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ