March 19, 2020

Regarding funerals and weddings in the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington during the time of suspension of public worship during the time of the Coronavirus

As part of the Body of Christ, we understand that gathering together is our natural inclination when we mourn a beloved person’s death as well as when we celebrate the union of two people, and while gathering together physically right now is not feasible, we understand that the circle of life continues during this challenging time. Here are some guidelines regarding funerals and weddings in our Diocese in the time of the suspension of public worship during the Coronavirus.

Funerals

--We encourage our clergy and lay leaders to continue to pastorally support a family in mourning while maintaining, as much as possible, recommended social distancing and handwashing measures. Pastoral support via phone or video are very appropriate.

--If the deceased is cremated, the family may wish to wait to have the funeral until public gatherings are advisable

--If waiting is not appropriate, we recommend holding the office of the Burial of the Dead (without Eucharist) with no more than 5 people present, including the officiant. All participants must be healthy and under the age of 65 and observe rules about hygiene and social distancing.

-- When it becomes advisable to hold public gatherings, a Memorial Eucharist can be held for the deceased.

Weddings

--If you have a wedding scheduled, please give the couple the options of postponing the ceremony or bringing their witnesses for a private ceremony comprising no more than five people, including the officiant. All participants must be healthy and under the age of 65 and observe rules about hygiene and social distancing.

--If the couple chooses to have a small ceremony comprising of 5 people, then a public celebration of their marriage can be scheduled for a date when public gatherings are advisable.