

Post from Conference Minister Franz Rigert

Despite yesterday's Presidential proclamation declaring churches an essential service and ordering

Governors to allow for immediate re-opening, the scientific data and facts on the ground here in Wisconsin do not support this. New Covid-19 cases are still on the rise and we are bracing for potentially devastating health consequences following a wide re-entry to public life with no government mandated phasing requirements and little guidance in place.

In consultation with the Wisconsin Council of Churches and our Jewish and Muslim Interfaith partners, we continue to urge UCC congregations to follow the Badger Bounce Back Plan. Please be patient and prudent, for your sake and for the sake of your beloved faith community. I urge all of our congregations to resist worshiping in person until it is safer. Churches are particularly vulnerable to severe cases of the Coronavirus because we have a large percentage of high risk people.

Friends, the time will come when we we can gradually re-engage in person. God's highest calling is that we love our neighbors even as we love our ourselves. This necessary social distancing is an act of love and a commitment to our faith.