

May 1, 2020

Covid-19 Update

As we enter our 7th week of an empty facility, we, just like the rest of you are feeling the powerful frustration that comes with uncertainty. We want to let you know we have been in regular conversations with Florida clergy, youth pastors, our local authorities and other United Methodist Camps across the nation, to discern the best options for moving forward in our particular and unique type of ministry. As we await information from the state and federal health officials we remain resolute on one clear principle: **We will not return to ministry until we are sure that we have policies in place that ensure the safety of our campers, our guests, our staff, and all of their families.** These policies will be guided by standards set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and best practice advice from the American Camp Association.

As we look at the Step-By-Step plan that has been crafted by the Governor's office, we believe that it will be unlikely that we will be able to safely re-open our site, gather our staff, and make preparations in time for our original intended summer camp start date of June 1st.

Considering this, we have decided to cancel session weeks 1-3 of our 2020 summer camp. These dates fall in between June 1st – 19th.

What does this mean for your family?

- If you have a camper that is currently ONLY registered for weeks 1-3 or day or resident camp, including our Leader in Training program, our staff will contact you via email with information about moving your camping session or refunding any payments you have made.
- If you have a camper that is registered for both sessions in these dates as well as later in the summer, we will discuss with you at a later date moving any payments made to the later weeks in which your camper is registered.
- If you are registered for weeks 4-10, there is no need to make any changes at this time.
- We have changed our refund policy to allow a full refund up to two weeks before your camp session for any reason, and up until the day of your camp session if your camper or someone in their household shows symptoms of contagious sickness.
- Scholarships are still available and the deadline for applications have been extended to June 15th

We say this to make it clear, summer camp will look different for everyone this year. With this being said, we will certainly develop and implement some new and unique experiences for our campers that will be life-changing memory makers.

We will be prepared to outline these changes once we receive clear guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Camp Association. We continue to honor the trust that families and individuals place in us as we adapt and move forward together.

We know that many questions stand to arise with this change to our summer. Feel free to email us with specific questions: jennifer@flriverside.org, david@flriverside.org or kimi@flriverside.org

