



## Illinois South Conference COVID-19 Response UPDATE #23, Dec. 6, 2021

### **Omicron is Here**

The Omicron variant of COVID-19 has reached the United States. Illinois has seen a steep climb in the number of COVID cases, though as of this writing, Omicron has not been detected in Illinois. Early research indicates the Omicron variant is highly transmissible, even more so than the Delta variant. It's too early to know if Omicron will make people mildly sick or seriously sick.

As we move through the Advent season, pastors and congregations should be prepared to move to virtual church life if needed. If you are meeting in person, we encourage you to continue to wear masks indoors, socially distance, use hand sanitizer and maintain good cleaning practices.

### *Helpful Information*

To keep tabs on COVID in your immediate area, the Illinois Department of Public Health has an excellent map that shows infection rates and hotspots in the state. [Go here](#) to see the most current numbers.

### **Together in Christ's ministry with you,**

Dr. Jill Baker, Conference Moderator

Rev. Christy Eckert, Conference Vice-Moderator

Rev. Steve Boorsma, Conference Secretary

Mr. Dwight Asselmeier, Conference Treasurer

Rev. Shana Johnson, IL South Conference Minister