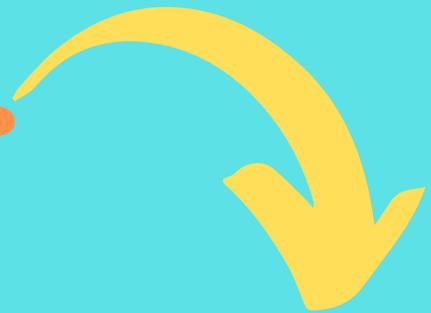
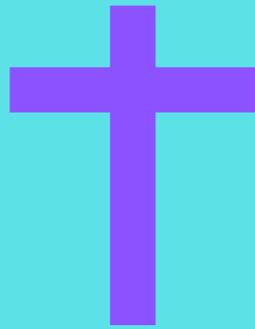
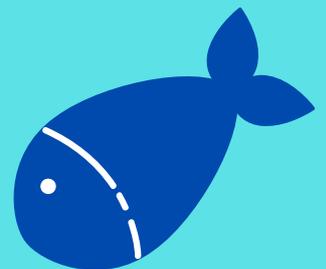




# URCSA CAPE REGIONAL SYNOD



**MAY  
CONGREGATIONS  
HAND OUT FOOD?**



# May congregations hand out food?



Reporting in this past weekend's local newspapers about centralizing any food supply and aid to communities in need is causing turmoil and uncertainty in congregations. Along with this, there are municipal letters and statements in the same vein from other parts of the country that are circulating on social media and deepening this concern.



## Current regulations

**Diaconia** is in contact with the Western Cape Government to get clarity on these reports and the Provincial Government's point of view in this regard. In the meantime, congregations must continue their good work and also be an example of working within the stipulated measures and official regulations.

Current regulations, among other things, stipulate that a person currently directly involved in providing assistance must have the necessary authorization. This includes persons involved in the distribution of food parcels and serving in soup kitchens.

Congregations working in partnership with registered organizations should not have a problem with this, as such an organization has the power to issue permits to volunteers. Congregations that do not have permits should preferably report to their local SAPS and seek advice on this.

There is a preference for vouchers or food parcels that are delivered to individual households. Prepared meals are a risk. If a congregation is involved in the provision of cooked meals to be collected, the distribution plan must be submitted to the local SAPS with all the preventative measures taken. The latter is related to the fact that policing may be necessary in the course of this distribution or that compliance with measures may be investigated.

## Further requirements



Social distance must be applied and hand cleaners must be available and used. Wearing masks in public has been mandatory since May 1, 2020.

It is desirable that the project is also done with the cooperation or knowledge of the local municipality and the Department of Social Development. This again emphasizes the importance of coordination and networks. It is desirable that a database be kept of persons who benefit from the nutrition initiative (ID number, address, contact number, how many people in the household) and that this list will be available for inspection by the department upon request. The expiry date of non-perishable food must be checked before it is released.

## Finally

We are currently awaiting official feedback from the Western Cape Government; it will be communicated to congregations immediately.

Blessings

**COVID-19 Project Team**