

Dear Students,

Wow! We are in completely uncharted territory together right now. Thank you for your flexibility, willingness to work toward solutions, and your commitment to finding that appropriate tension between continuing to invest in your personal development at Northpoint and the importance of taking care of your personal and family needs. That's a tough balance.

As a result of Governor's Whitmer's "Stay at Home" order, we are aware that a lot of you are now in emergency mode while you make important adjustments to work with the new restrictions. We have heard of lost jobs, the need to move, others needing to return home, etc., Needless to say, it's a little bit crazy.

We want you to know, we care deeply about you. We are also trying to find those correct balances. Paul said that there were a thousand teachers, people who would tell people stuff and tell people what to do, but only a few spiritual mothers and fathers who care personally about those they lead. We are working hard to be the latter and to care for you well.

In light of that, we have asked faculty to consider making three adjustments for this week and next week:

1. To consider not offering any graded assignments or assessments with substantial weight. With the adjustments you all are trying to make, I can imagine it will be difficult for you to keep your heads in the game.
2. To use the class energy instead to focus on in-class content, dialogue and conversation, and student development that will help you reach the objectives in other ways.
3. To extend grace to students regarding delayed work, absences, etc.,

I'm sure many of you are afraid their semester is about to fall apart because of the extra stresses you are experiencing. I can completely understand that feeling. Please know that your faculty and staff are facing some of those same pressures. They're trying to figure out what to do about their children, aging parents, how to adjust for lost income in other areas. Our family [not in our home] already has one, probably two people with COVID-19. This is a challenge for everyone.

Let's have a community of purposed grace. We're still here for a purpose. Your call hasn't changed. Neither has ours. But there are unique pressures on everyone and we want to care for each other well.

Thank you for being a productive, life-giving part of a special place. In moments like this we show the world what "New Creation" looks like.

You All are Loved and Appreciated,

The Northpoint Staff and Faculty