

October 18, 2021

The emergency suspension of the use of church facilities

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In Shimizu Church we have been discussing earthquake resistance of the Pastoral Hall since 2002. In addition, the Yokohama Parish approved the establishment of the Shimizu Church Construction Committee and began to make a concrete plan on June 2014. As we discussed the current chapel, the possibility of preserving the current chapel came to be a major issue in the construction plan. On November 19, 2015, Shimizu Church sent an Emergency Construction Committee Report to the parish to tell our intention to abandon the preservation of the chapel with large amounts of money, and the parish approved the abandonment of the maintenance of the current chapel.

On January 29, 2019, the Yokohama parish, which took into account the situation of Shimizu Church, announced a future "decision notice" that "the parish will conduct the current chapel in accordance with the principle of complementarity."

In July, the KR Building Research Institute, which was selected by the Parish Construction Committee, made an earthquake-resistant diagnosis, and based on the results, the preservation plan of the chapel was abandoned with the "Notice" dated August 21, 2020. And taking into account the situation of COVID-19 calamity, the plan of the new church facility of Shimizu Church will be told to Shimizu Church members in near future.

In mid-August 2021, plaster on the ceiling fell. There were also many other large and small and shallow cracks on the walls and ceilings. And we found there was a large risk of collapse. Therefore, the Church Committee asked the parish if it was ok to use it or not. As a result of discussions at the Parish Construction Committee on September 17 and the Bishop's Advisory Committee on September 27, we received documents on the decision to ban future use, giving priority to the safety of the people. We think that people may feel lonely and sorry for the sudden decision, but we would like you to understand that the priority is your safety.

Shimizu Church's current chapel and the Pastoral Hall will be suspended at the end of October. After discussing the future at the committee and having been examined by the Council of Kusanagi Church, we decided to use all of the mass and activities at Kusanagi Church from November 2021 until the construction of a new Shimizu Church facility.

At present, we do mass simplified by corona every other week, so we will continue the mass at Kusanagi church. Mass Shimizu Church of south area will be held on Sunday, November 14 at the chapel of Kusanagi Church at 10:30 a.m. November 28, east, north, Kambara, and others. If you would like to ride together, contact the committee. In addition, there are about 20 cars in the Kusanagi Church parking lot, so please use the nearby coin parking when it is full.

Please, I pray for the people of the world who are suffering from COVID-19 calamity,

For the Shimizu Church Community moving forward in this trial

I ask that you work together to pray for each other.