# Cleaning Parsonages Between Appointments

In addition to spreading person-to-person, the COVID-19 virus can spread through contaminated surfaces (especially stainless steel and plastic), where it can survive up to three days. This makes the proper cleaning of a parsonage when a change of appointment takes place even more important. The following practices apply to the cleaning of a parsonage. Separate recommendations exist for cleaning and disinfecting sanctuaries and other buildings.

## Before You Begin

- Since the virus deteriorates over time on surfaces, wait 72 hours after the parsonage is vacated before starting to clean, if possible.
- If someone known to have been infected with COVID-19 has occupied the parsonage, you must wait at least 72 hours before starting to clean and follow CDC guidelines for disinfecting homes.
- Focus first on hard surfaces and high-traffic areas (counters, kitchen islands, sofas, appliances).

## Materials

- Use disinfecting wipes, if available, and dispose of them safely after use.
- If wipes are not available, use EPA-registered disinfectants to kill the virus on surfaces.
- If these disinfectants are not available, create your own by adding 1/3 cup of bleach to a gallon of water (use within 24 hours), or use 70 percent alcohol solution. Do not mix with other cleaning solutions.

## Protective Equipment

- Those involved in cleaning should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
- If gowns are not available, coveralls, aprons or work uniforms can be worn during cleaning and disinfecting. Reusable (washable) clothing should be laundered after cleaning is completed.
- Additional personal protection equipment such as safety glasses or goggles might be required based on the product used and whether there is a risk of splash.
- Wash hands after removing gloves, gowns or other clothing.

## After Cleaning

- Proceed with all other activities in The Book of Discipline and SPRC/PPRC guidelines.
- If weather and local context allows, open windows before leaving parsonage.

## reset | **restart** | renew