



July 1, 2020

Dear Bethel Family,

I pray you and yours are well and at peace during this time of shared difficulty.

As our nation begins to reopen slowly, prudence demands that we begin a gradual and methodical transition back into full fellowship. Over the last few months we have had an altered and adapted form of fellowship born out of the present pandemic, however, it is critical that we do not take what is true fellowship and replace it with that which is temporal.

I do realize there is certainly a convenience and comfortability that comes with the digital gatherings that we have become accustomed to, and we thank the Lord for the technology that has allowed us to simulate some form of church services (Fellowship) for almost three months. I want to remind you that our belief and principals are not guided by the digital comforts of social platforms, but only by the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit and the Biblical pattern for the gathering of the saints is summed up in Hebrews 10:25 "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves **together**."

Because the health and safety of our members and guests are our first priority, let me strongly express, that we will not allow external pressures from friends, family, other believers, churches, organizations, government, or any federal, state, or local representative to influence our decision to resume fellowship or when to do so. We will do so, when it is time, exercising great care, caution, and good judgement as well as seeking the Lord for wisdom to discern "when is the right time" and "what is in the best interest of the saints and members of the Bethel Family".

So, it is with much meditation, prayer and sincerity of heart that I have outlined and drafted this initiative (readiness and ability in initiating action) that I have entitled: "**The Re-union of The Saints**"

These suggested practices have been developed from current guidance provided by leading health organizations in the country. The guidance in this area changes frequently and those reviewing this document should regularly consult with local health departments, other health organizations and medical professionals for up-to-date information and recommended approaches to mitigate risks of the spread of disease.

To reiterate, our Bethel Re-union team has taken and continues to take all possible precautions to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Thank you for your trust in me as your leader. Thank you for your prayers. I am very much looking forward to worshipping in person with you again.

Gratefully,

Pastor Derek K. Price
Senior Pastor
Bethel Christian Center



The Re-union of The Saints

Bethel Christian Center

Distancing:

- For indoor services, all places of worship shall limit occupancy to 40 percent of the building's maximum permitted occupancy level as documented in its occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder. The occupant count shall include all persons inside the place of worship, including attendees and staff.
- Staff or attendants shall monitor the number of attendees entering the place of worship for indoor services to ensure compliance with the maximum occupancy level.
- Attendees who are not part of the same immediate household must be seated at least 6 feet apart. Members of the same immediate household are permitted to sit together and less than 6 feet apart. If there is fixed seating, rows should be blocked off and kept empty to allow for sufficient distancing between rows.
- All attendees and staff must wear face coverings or masks in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 31 and the Department of Public Health's Guidance while inside and while entering and exiting places of worship or otherwise participating in in-person services, except where a person is unable to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical or disabling condition.
- A leader or celebrant engaged in conducting the service or making an address may remove his or her face covering while doing so, provided that he or she is able to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other persons present; installation of protective, plexi-glass or other transparent barriers are recommended for lecterns and other points of address.
- For children between age 2 and 5, the wearing of a face covering or mask is at the discretion of the child's parent or guardian. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a face covering or mask.
- A person who declines to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical or disabling condition shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition.

Recommended Best Practices:

- If feasible, places of worship are encouraged to arrange online sign-up for services in advance in order to monitor and limit the number of attendees.



- Places of worship are encouraged to place tape or other visual distancing markings on seating to delineate 6 foot separations and to post signage indicating the maximum number of persons permitted per row.
- Promote ventilation for enclosed spaces where possible. For example, consider opening windows and doors to allow airflow.
- Places of worship may refuse entry to a person who refuses to wear a face covering or mask for non-medical reasons.

Places of worship are encouraged to take steps to encourage orderly entering and exiting of services in a manner that encourages social distancing. For example:

- Signage or floor markings should be posted to have one-way aisles or otherwise direct attendees to follow certain pathways for entering and exiting the service.
- If a line forms outside of the service, those waiting should be directed to maintain social distancing. Tape or other markings on the ground outside of Places of worship should be placed to encourage attendees to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Staff should direct people in high traffic areas to help maintain social distancing.
- Officiants or other staff should direct successive, row-by-row exiting.

Hygiene Protocols:

Places of worship shall ensure that attendees and workers have access to hand-washing facilities, including soap and running water, and allow workers sufficient break time to wash hands, as necessary. They are also encouraged to make alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol available, if possible.

Staffing and Operations:

- Places of worship shall not have communal gathering pre or post service (e.g., coffee hours or other food services).
- Places of worship running food pantries or other prepackaged food distribution may continue to do so.
- Any childcare services shall remain closed until such time that there is additional guidance.



- If a place of worship learns that an attendee or worker or other worker has tested positive for COVID-19, it shall notify the local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town where the place of worship is located and assist the LBOH as reasonably requested to trace likely contacts and advise contacts to isolate and self-quarantine.

- Places of worship are encouraged to modify the means to collect any financial contributions from attendees so as to eliminate shared contribution trays and baskets and to minimize contact.

- Consider setting up a no-touch method to collect contributions and encouraging contributions through mail or electronic means.

- Places of worship are encouraged to modify communal rituals, like taking communion or passing of the peace, so as to limit contact with others. Consider distributing, where applicable, prepackaged communion or sacraments.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Places of worship shall be cleaned and disinfected between each service, including disinfection of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, bathrooms, microphones, shared instruments).

- If a place of worship learns that an individual with COVID-19 attended a service or otherwise entered the place of worship, it shall conduct a deep cleaning and disinfecting consistent with the Centers for Disease Control.

- If a Place of worship learns that an attendee or worker or other worker has tested positive for COVID-19, it shall notify the local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town where the place of worship is located and assist the LBOH as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine.