



NCCOGOP COVID-19 Directives – May 9, 2020

Grace and Peace to you from God the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I extend my appreciation and thanks to all the pastors and churches who have done your best to follow the National, State and Local guidelines regarding Covid-19. The result of your efforts is that the Corona Curve has flattened. And while we are still battling this horrendous plague, we give glory to God for His Grace and Mercy. He is faithful.

Most if not all of you have heard and/or read the Governor's Executive Order #138, and FAQ document which states on page 6, first Paragraph the following:

What does this Executive Order mean for places of worship?

Places of worship may hold services that exceed the Mass Gathering Limit of ten people if those services are held outdoors in an unenclosed space and if attendees follow Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission.

In order to remain in compliance with the Covid-19 Directives, and continue to be a part of the solution in the battle against the spread of Corona Virus, all North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy Local Congregations in accordance with the National, State and Local Official guidelines are hereby instructed to continue the suspension of all corporate gatherings that are not allowed by the Governor's Executive Order. This suspension is effective today May 9, 2020 and will extend until the North Carolina Governor determines that the State of North Carolina is officially reopened and/or makes additional allowances for Houses of Worship.

This directive includes General Corporate Gatherings and any other gatherings not in compliance with National, State and/or Local guidelines. Make sure that you check your local guidelines. Remember; to operate outside of the Local, State and National guidelines is to jeopardize yourself and the church personally and legally.

Moreover, if Drive-in Church or Outside Church services are allowable in your City, Town and/or County, as outlined by the Governor's guidelines, and there is a desire to worship in this way, Pastors should carry out at least the following:

1. Confirm that you are Incorporated as a Local Church Congregation
2. Contact your insurance Carrier to assure that you have appropriate and adequate insurance protection
3. Consult your local church governance board or committee for a recommendation to have said service.
4. If your board or committee agrees to proceed, then they should present this recommendation to the local church. Note: to miss this step is to set yourself up for personal liability.
5. Make sure that you have properly prepared for the service.
6. Pastors should inform the Regional Bishop that the church is planning to hold Drive-in Church and/or Outside Church Services. This can be done by sending an email.

When making your decision you should also give consideration regarding the age, health conditions and ability of your parishioners to attend a Drive-in Church and or Outside Service.

Once again, I urge you to make sure that you observe all the social distancing guidelines and protect the most vulnerable.

I strongly recommend that churches who have been providing worship via technology continue to do so. Care for the new people that you have reach, steward the gift that God has placed in your hands.

You should respect decisions of all church members; those who choose to participate onsite, and those who have decided to remain home and follow you via technology.

In keeping with the National State and Local guidelines, you are to:

1. Keep the church locked and bathrooms unavailable
2. Maintain the proper distance in accordance with the guidelines
3. Prohibit personal contact of your parishioners
4. Any and all other essential precautions to safeguard the health of those attending
5. Check with your local authorities to make sure that you are in compliance

Churches and pastors who decide to bring chairs outside should make sure to count the cost, and measure your space to maintain the six feet guidelines.

The instructions provided in this memorandum should not be construed as State Office/State Bishop approval and/or an endorsement for having Drive-in Church. The instructions are only intended to provide direction for "doing things the right way" should your local church decide to take the allowance made by National, State and Local authorities as it pertains to Drive-in Church in your area. Make sure that you KNOW and FOLLOW ALL of the guidelines required by National, State and Local authorities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Bishop Jeffery A. Davis
NC Church of God of Prophecy
Presiding Presbyter