



The Church of God of Prophecy  
NC State Office  
PO Box 699  
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March 17, 2020

To: North Carolina Pastors and State Staff  
From: Jeffery A. Davis, State Bishop North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy  
Subject: Coronavirus Update -Suspension of all Services and Group Gatherings for 15 days;  
and Pastoral Recommendations

While many are paralyzed by fear concerning the Coronavirus, as believers, we have a different response. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore, the decisions we make are based on our Core Values of love, prayer, leadership, stewardship and harvest. These are the guiding principles that have helped us in this process. As a result, I have sought wise counsel and now I am asking all our North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy local congregations to suspend all corporate gatherings for 15 days, in accordance with the Local, State and National guidelines. This suspension is scheduled to begin March 18, ending midnight of April 3, 2020. A copy of the guidelines is included with this communique.

It is with an abundance of love and caution for both you, your family, the members and staff of your church that I recommend this temporarily closure. We are closely monitoring the situation, as we are being advised by the North American Presbyters Office, ADF (Alliance Defending Freedom), local State and National Officials and we will keep you updated via Constant Contact, via phone calls from Regional and District Presbyters, and our social media sites as we continue to receive updates.

Under normal circumstances, we would love for you to carry out your regularly scheduled services. However, your health and wellness, and all who are connected to you are our top priority. Thank you for your understanding and support.

What does this 15-day Suspension of Regularly Scheduled Corporate gatherings mean?

**The NCCOGOP State Facilities; Office and Campgrounds:**

(Safety) the NCCOGOP State Office will be open until further notice. However, we will adhere to all the recommendations of the Local, State and National Officials, as well as the health and medical professionals.

The NCCOGOP Campgrounds will adhere to the recommendations of the Local, State and National officials, the medical professionals and experts. Therefore, we are suspending all campground activity for 15 days.

I (Bishop Jeffery A. Davis) am postponing all previously scheduled church visits during this 15-day suspension. I will work with the Pastors to reschedule those visits when the time is appropriate.

**Practice The Ministry Of Presence:**

To continue your pastoring during this season, I recommend the following:

Pastors can call, text and check on your leaders; develop a schedule so that the leaders will know when to expect your call.

Assign leaders to call, text and check on our seniors weekly.

Have leaders or cell/ small groups leaders make periodic calls to a designated list of the members of their group or congregation.

And/or consider having member accountability groups operate phone trees and assign a person to be responsible from the group to report back to the pastor.

While we are complying with the local, state and national authorities regarding the practice of Social Distancing, we do not want it to become Social Isolation. Our elderly, senior congregants and our youth will need attention.

**The Following are some Tips and Options:**

Pastors are encouraged to minister to their congregant in the following methods:

- 1) Initiate small groups or life groups to facilitate the services; the pastor can utilize Facetime or Skype and have interaction with the congregation; this can be done from your living room.
- 2) Consider providing Livestream for "Church at Home"
- 3) Use conference calling, the state office can provide information to you to set up a free conference call line.
- 4) Send out a regular email to the membership with updates and encouragement.
- 5) Establish a Zoom video conference for the church.

**Livestream Church at Home:**

Encourage those that gather at home not to just watch the Livestream ..., have church! Bring the ministry of the church into their homes; sing the songs, clap their hands, pray the prayers, listen to and respond to the word, and allow God to minister. I encourage; 1) preaching and teaching on what the Bible says about Jesus the healer, who we are as His people, and address the issues of sickness and viruses, and the end times, 2) Preach and teach on how we can effectively pray God's word against such illnesses, and 3) How God loves us, and equips us as believers to bring His power and love to others in times of crisis.

**Assistance and Resources:**

Assign someone to contact the County to request a list of local Food Banks in your area for those who are financially challenged and will need food.

**Special Notes:**

I recommend that the pastor and leadership team consider establishing online giving so that members and congregants can continue to pay tithes and give offerings. If your church is interested in this process please send an email to Sister Tracey Haire, and we will arrange to provide you information. Her email is [thaire@nacogop.org](mailto:thaire@nacogop.org). Otherwise, establish clear instructions with appropriated safeguards for ongoing stewardship.

If livestreaming is not available at your local church, several of our COGOP churches have this service available. The NCCOGOP office will provide a listing of churches and post it on our website and Facebook page on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. \*For the churches that are interested in Facetime live, the state office will provide a free conference call to teach you how to do this.

Finally, I encourage your church staff to meet and discuss how to best implement the recommendations in this memo, and to strategize for moving forward. The meeting may best work via conference call.

All scheduled State NCCOGOP events are suspended for the next 15 days. Please check the NCCOGOP website and Facebook page for updates. Under separate cover I will send you the prayer focus.

Thank you for your partnership. We will get through this together!

On Earth As It Is In Heaven,



Jeffery A. Davis  
North Carolina State Bishop