



The Church of God of Prophecy
NC State Office
PO Box 699
Jamestown, NC 27282

Date: April 2, 2020

To: North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy Pastors

From: Jeffery Davis - State Bishop North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy

Re: North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy Directives

Dear Pastor,

You and your hard-working companion have done an incredible job ministering to your parishioners, being innovative and practicing the Ministry of Presence, while complying with the Local, State and National authorities regarding the practice of social distancing. During the past few weeks most of you have reached more people than you would have otherwise had the opportunity to do so in the past. Keep up the good work!

Moreover, I thank you all who joined us in the 24hr Prayer & Fasting Initiative. We are looking for God to continue to help our leaders and all of us as we manage this season together.

NCCOGOP Covid-19 Directives

In order to remain in compliance with the Covid-19 Directives, and play our part in the battle against the spread of Corona Virus, all North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy Local Congregations are hereby instructed to suspend **All** corporate gatherings in accordance with the Local, State and National Official guidelines. This suspension is effective today April 2, 2020 and will extend until April 30th, 2020. This directive includes, but is not limited to Cowboy Church Services, Drive in Church Services, Outside Church Services, General Corporate Gatherings, etc., and any other Corporate Church Service that is not in compliance with Local, State and or National guidelines.

In addition, we have been in consultation with legal counsel. Please read the attached letter from our attorney Stephen Lentz, Esquire addressed to all of the North American State and Regional Bishops. The letter addresses gatherings that do not fall within the strictest expression for the Local, State and National guidelines. Remember that to operate outside of the guidelines is to place yourself and the church in harm's way both legally and personally. Thank you for your compliance.

The NCCOGOP State Facilities; Office and Campground:

- The NCCOGOP State Office Operations: in line with Local, State and Official guidelines, and in consultation with church officials, the NCCOGOP State Office has temporarily implemented a "work from home" business model for our office staff. This means the office will have fewer people who work in the office. This change went into effect on Monday, March 30, 2020 and

will continue until further notice. The NCCOGOP State Office will be open for minimal days for business, however will remain closed to the public. Office staff are instructed not to receive any guests, visitors, or pastors, etc.

- The NCCOGOP Campground is closed to the public until further notice.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

While the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** is a wonderful opportunity to assist local churches in need with a Payroll Protection Program loan (PPP) and an Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), please take the following into consideration:

- a. Proper Procedures for Loan Application:
 - i. The Webinars and instructions simply say for the local church to do three things:
 1. Know your number (i.e., how much you are eligible to borrow).
 2. Call your bank.
 3. Stay tuned.

However, per current Ministry Policy Manual and or Bylaws, pastors should consult his/her Board or Finance Committee for a recommendation on whether to apply for said funds. If an agreement is reached, then the Board or Finance Committee should present this recommendation to the local church.

In normal procedure the State Bishop should also be consulted to provide his approval to move forward with the loan application. However, due to the urgency of this on this matter, I am asking that the pastor simply inform me that the church will be applying for the loan. We will have a computerize process ready to assist you with this matter, so stay tuned. Then once the loan has been approved, please inform the State Bishop of the terms (i.e., the amount of the loan, the interest rate, and number of years).

Please remember the following:

- The loan is not automatically forgiven. The borrower must abide by the terms of the loan in full in order to be eligible to apply for forgiveness of the amount borrowed.
- Make sure you have a clear understanding of all the terms and conditions of the loan, as all unforgiven loans must be paid back via the terms of the loan by the borrower.
- You should speak with a/your banker right away as the funds will be disseminated through the banks, and you can gain insight to present to your local church.
- However, it is a good practice and recommended that you also consult a CPA to make sure that you have a clear understanding of your obligation, and to make sure that getting the loan is in the best interest of your congregation.
- Good stewardship would have us: 1) not borrow if we don't have to do so; or 2) borrow only the amount that we must; and 3) be prepared to repay the loan in full and on time, in accordance to the terms.
- Keep in mind that there may be other options available to your congregation. Banks may defer mortgage payments; talk with a banker to see what can be done.

Pastoral and Ministry Reporting:

The number of people viewing your church services online have been amazing. Several pastors have asked about reporting the numbers from your social networking: Facebook and/or Virtual Church services on your pastor's monthly report. Yes, please include those numbers and make notes, comments, and testimonies, etc. in the comments section.

We are praying for you and your congregation.

Blessings on you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffery Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffery A. Davis
North Carolina State Bishop