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May 01, 2020.

Memo #08 – 2020 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Sabbath Service & Harvest Guidelines.

Dear Faithful of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

As at the moment of issuing this Memoranda 3.3 million people were known to have been affected in the world and 234,000 Souls have been lost. In USA alone, 1.08M have tested positive and over 64,500 lives had been destroyed. COVID-19 is a ruthless killer and a divine final clarion call on the world to repent and return unto the Lord. It is evidently the Lord's Trumpet through nature unto a sinful and perverse world. This is the end of an era. Civilization and freedom are being redefined, every process - economic, social, financial, religious and political will now have to be simulated and redefined in consonance with the new reality.

The Council of Regional and State Supervisors have met and His Eminence, the Pastor and Spiritual Head of the Church worldwide had been duly consulted. Following decisions are informed by the recommendation of Center for Disease Control (CDC), the need to protect the lives of members, the need to avoid lawsuits and Prison Ministry and the need to protect the name of the Church from being stigmatized.

Only the States and Municipalities where the "Stay at home" Orders have been lifted, can resume normal church activities with the following guidelines in place:

1. Until the infection and mortality rate of the Coronavirus has decreased significantly or a vaccine discovered, everyone older than 2 years old should strongly consider wearing a mask (cloth or simple facemask). This recommendation is directly from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). To that effect, all parishioners older than 2 years old are strongly encouraged to wear a mask throughout the entirety of the church service. However, it is mandatory for all Parishioners 12 years and older to wear a mask.
2. Anyone that has tested positive for COVID must get a note from their doctor stating their period of quarantine is over, before returning to church. If you are unable to get this note from your doctor, please refrain from coming to the church for a minimum of 7 days from the end of your symptoms. If you continue to have symptoms, please do not return to church.

Regional Supervisors

S/E S. Oyelade
East Coast Region A

S/E M. Adekale
Great Lakes Region B

S/E J. Awosika
South West Region C

S/E P. Olaniyan
South East Region D

S/E A. Adeyefa
Washington Region E

S/E H. Olorunkunle
Texas Region G

S/E S Olorunshola
Special Duties

V/S/E Anthony Iremiren - Grand Patron

3. If you have not been tested for COVID, but have any of the symptoms below, please remain at home until **ALL** your symptoms resolve. Then, count 7 days from the end of your symptoms before you can return to Church.
 - Symptoms include: **Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore throat, Loss of taste or smell, Nausea/Vomiting/Loss of Appetite/Diarrhea, Unexplained rash, Unexplained fatigue.**
4. Again, if you have any of the aforementioned symptoms, you are strongly advised to seek medical care and obtain a COVID test. If the test is positive, follow guidelines from #2 above. If the test is negative, please avoid the church premises for a minimum of 7 days after your symptoms resolve.
5. Church services shall not be longer than 2 1/2 hours in length. Until the lock-down Order is lifted in your state/region for Houses of worship the maximum allowed is 10 people, appropriately spaced out. And where the Stay Home and Shut down Order has been lifted CDC recommends Corporate offices to keep no more than 25% of their workforce in the office – others must work from home. Churches shall maintain a sitting arrangement that provide six feet spacing from one person to another. It is, therefore, required that we should split up our Sabbath day Worship Service into 2 services, with members split fairly evenly between each service, particularly where the Sanctuary capacity is currently 100% utilized/occupied.
6. Church Leaders shall review their active membership Register and determine how they can split members evenly between 2 services.
7. Hold dual services 10am-12.15pm | 12:30pm – 2:30pm. Church should be sanitized in between services. Avoid body contact – there is no sentiment or compromise on this.
8. Collections should be taken only once, followed by collection of tithes.
9. For now, we have to change our cultural practice of dancing together when bringing our offerings. All Thanks offering should be carried out only once. Members will remain dancing at their places during thanks-giving praise worship songs. There will be no congregating and dancing together during thanks offering. At the end of the praise songs, wardens will collect members offering trays from them.
10. Sermons should not extend beyond 25-30 minutes.
11. Anyone who develops any symptoms during the course of the service is advised to leave immediately and seek medical care where necessary.
12. There should be no hugging, shaking of hands, or other forms of physical contact.
13. Holy water at the entrance of the church shall remain removed until further notice.
14. Sprinkling of holy water should be performed using an aspergillum or a holy water sprinkler, by the warden. Do not use hands to sprinkle the water.
15. Members are advised to use the hand sanitizer before going in and out of the sanctuary.
16. Microphones should be wiped down in between use.
17. Church Housekeeping Staff should ensure all doorknobs and frequently touched surfaces are wiped down throughout the course of the service. Sanctuaries should be thoroughly cleaned and wiped down after and before Service.

18. Each church shall invest in video and audio streaming software or tel-conference line to ensure that members who are unable to attend can still effectively be a part of the service.

Juvenile Harvest Guidelines:

As much as we want to celebrate our children, we must also be cognizant of their safety. This year's Juvenile Harvest Services shall be celebrated with only the Service Conductor and Preacher allowed into the Sanctuary. All others, including three members prayer, bible reading, and announcement shall be conducted from their various homes. Please observe strictly the guidelines above provided to save our children's lives. Reasonable harvest donations from those who are able shall still be taken to provide T/Shirts or gifts for the children, provide offerings to the Lord and arrange to feast/entertain the children specially when things return to normal,

Adult Harvest Guidelines: Points to consider:

- ❖ Inviting guests that must travel by air is totally discouraged.
- ❖ As most Sanctuaries are hardly adequate even for members of each parish, and taking into consideration the Guidelines of CDC, invitations to guests from other parishes and from outside shall be discouraged. This year's harvest shall be reduced to Parish's thanksgiving. It is not necessary or relevant for any parish to think of changing her harvest date.
- ❖ A covered outdoor area should be available as an extension, where an overflow of people can go to help ensure social distancing.
- ❖ Wearing of masks will continue to be encouraged even for harvest.
- ❖ As this Virus has affected the core of Finances and Jobs, Members should NOT be overly pressured to pay levies and other harvest contributions.
- ❖ Harvests should begin by 11am and end no later than 4:00PM - 5PM.
- ❖ Thanks offerings should be consolidated and Members should remain standing/dancing at their places. Their offerings will be collected from them by the warden/Ministers.
- ❖ 3 Representatives of the Harvest Committee will bring their offering before the Lord while others remain dancing at their places.
- ❖ The shepherd and his family can present their offerings with members remaining at their places rejoicing with their shepherd.
- ❖ Pastors thanks offering will be held with only 3 selected elders from the altar.

As we are dealing with an unprecedented loss of life and morbidity due to this virus, every measure must be taken to ensure the safety of members.

All the stated guidelines above will continue to remain in effect until further notice.

If the "Stay at Home" Order remains in place for your state, Please do NOT open your church for service. If your state has an order limiting gatherings to a certain number of people, then abide by those mandates. Observing the ordinances of your State and Local Authorities supersedes the guidance here provided.



VSE Joseph Olorunnisola.

Head of USA Diocese.

CC: His Eminence – Pastor and Spiritual Head, CCC Worldwide.