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March 13th, 2020

To:
All Regional Supervisors
All States Supervisors
All Shepherds
All Parishioners.

Memorandum # 03 – 2020 **CORONAVIRUS - COVID -19**

Dear Members of the Household of Christ,

In January 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of a new coronavirus disease in Hubei Province, China to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. WHO stated there is a high risk of the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spreading to other countries around the world. WHO and public health authorities around the world have been taking action to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. However, long term success cannot be taken for granted. All sections of our society – including businesses and employers/employees – must play a role if we are to stop the spread of this disease. Here in USA, most schools are closed for two – four weeks, all sporting events are shut down, Corporate workers have been directed to work from home, most social events have been postponed and a number of Churches have been temporarily shut down for worship Services.

As a Body of Christ, the Church is concerned about the wellbeing of its members and the world at large. We therefore advise a common-sense approach to all our processes, that all members take due care and diligence in preventing the spread of this disease that has now been declared by the WHO as pandemic.

The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of this acute respiratory infection include the following:

- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoid hand shaking and hugging.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing or on their sleeves, and wash hands).

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

- While the WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travelers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travelers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider. Adherence to these instructions fulfils the purpose of preventing the virus infection.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Celestial Church of Christ - USA Diocese will take all precautionary measures to keep its' members safe. As the number of infected people continues to grow on a daily basis, we must ensure a safe and healthy environment for all worshippers. Most states have banned all gatherings of greater than 250 people and we aim to adhere to these guidelines strictly. Even though most of our Celestial Churches in USA do not have this number of people in our Sunday Services, we still want to take all the necessary steps to avoid further spread of the disease.

Services in Celestial Church will continue with the following precautions to be taken seriously:

Members who should NOT Attend Church Service

- Any church member who is ill with fever, cough, congestion, sorethroat, chills, vomiting or diarrhea, should remain at home and avoid the church premises entirely.
- Any church member over the age of 75 should preferably stay home and join the service online or via teleconference, as this is the most vulnerable age for the Coronavirus.
- Any church member between the ages of 60-75 who has any underlying health problems such as diabetes, Lung or heart problems, should stay home and join the services online or via teleconference due to the greater risk carried to their health by the Coronavirus.
- Any member of any age group with a chronic heart or lung condition should preferably stay home and join the services online.

For Members Who Attend Church Service:

- Members who attend church should avoid any unnecessary physical contact.
- There should be no shaking of hands, hugging, kissing on the cheeks or any other manner of greeting that can promote the spread of germs and viruses. A simple Hallelujah will do! Hands shall be washed regularly with soap and warm water. It is compelling.
- If you happen to suddenly cough or sneeze while you are at church, make sure you cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or inside your elbow. Immediately throw used tissues in the trash and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer where available
- In the event that you feel like you may be feeling sick while at church, please leave immediately to seek medical care and avoid further contact with others.

- Avoid touching door handles with your bare hands. Use tissues if possible. If not, wash your hands or use hand sanitizers after touching frequently touched surfaces.
- Everyone should avoid touching their face or mouth as this can promote the spread of germs to oneself, especially if good hand hygiene is not practiced.
- In view of the restricted air circulation in flights, it is advisable that air travelling is avoided for now unless it is compelling.
- All events and Celebrations involving invitations to ‘all and sundry’ should be suspended for now.

For Church Officials:

- For as long as this pandemic is in effect, there should be no holy water at the entrance to avoid the spread of germs by people putting their hands in the water and sprinkling on themselves. Sanctification will be done via general sprinkling of water by an individual wearing gloves or someone who has recently washed or sanitized their hands.
- Services should be held in a time sensitive manner and all members are encouraged to return home as soon as service is over.
- All the Toilets, chairs, doors and door handles and every multi-users equipment shall be sprayed with Clorox or any available sanitizer before the commencement of Service.
- Churches are encouraged to have hand sanitizers readily available to encourage frequent hand cleaning.
- No offerings should be permitted that involves licking of honey/sugar/salt by members, to again avoid the spread of germs
- Try to clean microphones with Clorox wipes or other similar cleansers in between uses, if to be used by multiple people.
- Chairs in the Sanctuary shall be sufficiently spaced to avoid body contact.
- Please ensure that all federal, States, local authority and Health Management recommendations are strictly observed.

With regards to the planned Shepherds Retreat scheduled for April 24 to 26 in Detroit, EXCO has decided to put it on hold until further notice. The Secretariat will re-assess the situation when the situation has been brought under control. When it is eventually decided to hold in future, adequate arrangements to ensure member’s safety will be made. Hand sanitizers will be made

available for members, Temperature Guns will be administered at the entrance of the different venues and seating arrangements will take cognizance of the health situation.

As a Church we cannot afford to be carefree or insensitive to the current most serious and vulnerable situation. There must be common-sense approach to all our processes if we must safeguard our members and protect the integrity of our faith.

All the above guidelines have been made in concert with guidelines from the CDC and local health officials. The Lord will continue to guide and protect us and keep us safe from all forms of morbidities. The Lord will send out His Word to heal us all and grant us peace in Jesus name. Amen.

Please ensure that this message is read to all members for their guidance at every Sabbath Service and posted on every parish's Bulletin Board. Perhaps we should also add that any authentic spiritual message given should be carried out. As the situation remains fluid, any future development will be adequately communicated.

Thanks and remain blessed in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "VSE Joseph O Olorunnisola", written over a horizontal line.

VSE Joseph O Olorunnisola
Head of USA Diocese