



Dear Leader,

Greetings from the Network Office.

These past few weeks have been unprecedented. Though I know I haven't seen 'everything', I do know I have never seen 'anything' quite like this. The rapid rate in which COVID-19 has reached into every sphere of society is next to unbelievable. It has forced all of us to pause and make decisions that we have never had to contemplate.

Due to the fact that only 35 of our 205 churches are over 250, many were not affected by the first request to not assemble in groups of over 250. Even though the Governor's first mandate excluded churches, many embraced his concerns and went to online services. We now have a different set of guidelines that even in one day, have changed from groups of 50 to groups of 10. I know you have been inundated with information as you weigh the many factors involved in making decisions on how to best maneuver through these next 6 to 8 weeks.

As you lead your ministry, I encourage you to be prayerfully balanced in your decisions on what to do and how you choose best to minister and serve your church and community. I want to suggest that you prayerfully think on these areas as you and your leaders make decisions:

- * The requests of the President and the CDC to limit meetings of groups to under 10 people are not attacks on religious freedom or our right to assemble.
- * These mandates have not singled out just the church, but have been issued to our nation.
- * This is solely an issue of public health.
- * Faith in God is not in question as you choose online options over large physical meetings during these next several weeks.

This is neither an issue of limiting your religious freedom to meet or an attack on our doctrinal/theological beliefs. When the church enters such times (*and I do believe we will*), it will be our responsibility to make a stand in the face of public discontent. Now, is no such time. We need to listen to our national leaders, who are not asking us to violate our scriptural convictions. They are simply asking that we embrace a posture of safety for our community.

For the next few weeks, let us serve with creativity, passion and obedience. As the Assemblies of God Fellowship, let us show our community the LOVE, COMPASSION and CONCERN of God. Move to an online venue or small house church settings, practice social distancing and proper health disciplines. Please let us know if we can help you with technology, logistics, setting up online giving, or any other resources to help you better serve your church body in these next weeks.

We will continue to keep you informed concerning cancellations and rescheduling of Network Ministry events. We are still moving forward on preparations for Lead Conference, with our final decision to be made April 1.

Blessings,
Scott