



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

June 3rd, 2020

Good afternoon! Wow! A lot has happened in the past week since my last update. Amazing how much can change in our world in one week. Because of everything going on, I've decided to shorten my letter and just cover the bare essentials. Please refer to last week's letter on our website, under our COVID-19 page, for information on how we're serving, giving options, ministry updates and other highlights.

Church-Wide Survey

First, thank you so much for taking the time to fill out the re-opening survey. We had a very strong response. It closed yesterday and will provide us helpful information as we plan our reopening strategy.

Current Situation

Most of you probably saw Governor Inslee's news conference last Friday announcing the end of the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order. King County has officially moved into Phase 1, but is in the process of submitting an application to move to Phase 1.5 (see attached email with Washington State Phased Plan). Unfortunately, King County did not qualify to move to Phase 2 which allows reopening of restaurants, hair salons and retail stores at limited capacity. Once we move to Phase 1.5, King County will then monitor its metrics for two weeks before applying to move to Phase 2.

In regards to churches, Governor Inslee did another news conference last week where he modified the original reopening time for church gatherings. He made two significant changes, allowing churches, who meet all other stated requirements, to:

- **Phase 1** – Hold outdoor services on the churches property (or immediately adjacent property if explicitly permitted by the local jurisdiction) with up to 100 individuals, excluding church staff.
- **Phase 2** – Hold indoor services at a place of worship with up to 25% capacity or 50 individuals, whichever is less, (excluding church staff).

While it may appear as though we could begin meeting immediately outdoors in Phase 1, the Governor's Office issued an additional list of requirements that need to be met in order for us to open in a safe and prudent manner. Our Elders and Leadership Board are currently reviewing these requirements, purchasing necessary supplies and writing up policies to comply with guidelines. This is going to take us some time to research, write up and sufficiently respond to the requirements. As we get a clearer picture of our exact timeline, and how specifically it will look, we will let you know.

We will make sure to use all communication channels available, our website, Facebook page, Instagram, Email and Text to keep you informed and clear on next steps.

I want to acknowledge that we are all anxious to get back together and see each other. Saying it's been "hard" or "sad" is quite an understatement! I know all of us are longing to catch up on life, share a coffee and pray for one another, but we must continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to give us patience as we wait. While not easy, we trust God's timing is always better than ours.

Transparency

As of June 3rd, there are no confirmed cases of AHCC members contracting the virus. If any AHCC member is known to be infected with COVID-19, the church body will be notified (privacy for the individual) and appropriate action taken.

Events

All-Church Prayer Night

Tonight is our last all-church prayer night with the Elders taking turns leading. We will then evaluate where God is leading us as far as corporate prayer and praise. Below is the Zoom invite (note you can attend both via video or phone):

Topic: All-Church Prayer Night

Time: Wednesday, Jun 3, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88680978813>

Meeting ID: 886 8097 8813

P: (253) 215-8782 US

Church Camping Trip

Save the date! While we don't know what this summer will look like, we're still planning to have our annual church camping trip on August 7th-9th at Whispering Pines in Cle Elum. More information will come as we get closer, but if you plan to bring a motorhome, please contact Amy Policarpio at 425-737-4342 ASAP!

CityServe

We are also continuing to plan for our annual CityServe event at Arbor Heights Elementary on August 16th. While it may look a little different than last year, we likely will continue our beautifying of the school grounds and painting the playground area. Please contact Charnell Bolger at charnellbolger@yahoo.com or 206-261-4445 with any questions.

A Solid Anchor

Hebrews 6:19 says, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." In a time of division, confusion, pain and sickness, I'm thankful we have a hope that both extends beyond this world, and yet because of that, empowers us to offer real peace and hope in this world. Please join me in seeking the God of hope!

Pastor John