



DISTRICT  
RESOURCE  
CENTER

May 26, 2020

## District Response Regarding the State's Authorization to Resume In-Person Worship Services

We are pleased to acknowledge that Governor Newsom has now published the State's guidelines for resumption of in-person worship services! Governor Sisolak is expected to announce similar guidelines for Nevada churches shortly. Resumption of in-person meetings is contingent on satisfying the safety guidelines. Governor Newsom stated that these guidelines will be in effect for 21 days and revisited after that date. Unless otherwise superseded by your local county.

*Update May 27, 2020: Governor Sisolak announced the max attendance is 50 for Nevada churches. All other guidelines apply.*

We urge churches to comply with these guidelines. Doing so will help keep people healthy. Churches should also prepare for the possibility that they may get a surprise visit from a health official, sheriff, fire dept, or even the media, to see if the church is complying with the guidelines. Following these guidelines will not only help keep people healthy; it will help avoid unexpected legal or media repercussions.

The guidelines fall into three basic areas:

- 1) **Staff Training** on how COVID19 spreads and how to prevent it from spreading.
- 2) **Site-specific plan** for preparing and managing the facility. The primary restriction is attendance is limited to 25% of capacity, or 100, whichever is less.
- 3) **Worship-specific plan** for managing congregant activities. The primary practice here is providing for physical distancing and the usage of masks.

Once the church leadership has developed these plans, every staff or volunteer will be required to be trained on these standards. The church should require the individual to sign an acknowledgment of such.

The District Officers have summarized these guidelines and prepared some instructions for District Affiliated Churches. These are now available on the COVID tab of our website. General Council churches are welcome to review and adapt these for their use.

Friends, we want to ask everyone to remember our mission. While the shelter-in-place has been hard on our churches and ministers, and while we relish the thought of resuming our gatherings, it's important that we remember that this season has been much harder on the public than it has been on us! We were forced to move online. Others were forced to shut down completely. We have hope and security in Christ. Others endured this season without those assurances. Consequently, many in our community are hurting tremendously. Suicide is on the rise. Financial pressure is mounting. We need to bring hope to these people. We need to help them to know that God is with them. This is the work of the church. This work is essential. We were made for this hour!

May God give you wisdom in these matters.

Executive Officers.