



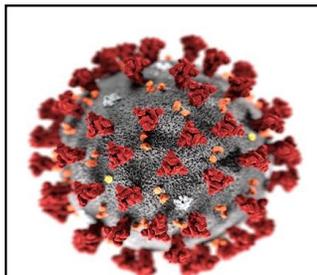
CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD (C.W.F.F.)

NATIONAL NEWS LETTER

“OUR SUR-THRIVAL PLAN “

2020 ISSUE 1—1ST QUARTER

Chief Bishop Rex Waddell



CORONA VIRUS
(COVID-19) AND THE CHURCH

Ps 46:1: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. KJV

Brethren,
It is our heart's desire and prayer to God that each of you are enjoying the

blessings of God in great abundance!

I am writing you concerning the recent Corona Virus outbreak. Though there are a plethora of media and governmental sources speaking out on this matter, one reoccurring message is there is a lot that we do not know about this virus especially regarding its longevity, potency and specifically how it is passed from person to person.

In addition, many local, county and state governments have issued various levels of protective orders requiring its citizens to adhere to a bevy of different sanctions, closings and restrictions that are currently impacting almost every level of our business, personal and social lives; even impacting our places of worship.

I have carefully and prayerfully considered the matter of closing our churches in order to prevent the spread of this virus among our congregants and friends. There are many things to consider regarding this matter, one of which is the very real potential of negatively impacting our churches financially. However, I truly believe that when this virus has run its course, it will be impossible to know if we as a church overreacted or did too much, but it will

be quite apparent if we as a church underreacted and did too little.

There are those who say that the church should demonstrate its faith in God and keep its doors opened during this international crisis. I submit to you that for most of us, it will take far more faith to close our doors than to keep them opened!

Consequently, I am asking that each one of our local temples and districts strongly consider temporarily suspending all gatherings of ten or more people and would seek other means of conducting our worship, fellowship, business and other church related activities via internet or some form of digitally-interactive media platform. This is not an “order” because I am not certain the office of Chief Bishop has such authority; but this does represent the strongest possible suggestion.

In response to this matter, I have requested that the national technology ministry along with the General Treasurer's office provide on line tools and technological support to assist our local temples with setting up on line streaming to air their services, bible studies and other meetings; and to be provided instruction for using a digital/internet platform for collecting their tithes, offerings and other necessary funds. We have provided information about these resources in this publication.

As the psalmist declared in Psalms 46:1 – Our God is a “very present help in trouble.” This clause “very present help” can be translated “greatly found assistance.” This divine promise

ministers to us at this very moment and time, reassuring us that the more trouble abounds the more God will give us easier access to his presence, his power and his peace! Thanks be unto God for the victory we've already won!

This is not a moment to merely talk faith, it is a time to demonstrate our faith by showing love and compassion for others. Let's strive to put the glory of God on display for the world to see! I pray God's richest blessing continue to be yours!

For Such A Time As This – Your Servant,
Bishop Rex M. Waddell—Chief Bishop

Church of the Living God (C.W.F.F.)

National Brotherhood
Covid19 Critical Response

Introduction

In light of recent pandemic developments of the Corona Virus it has become necessary for the church to implement a plan of action that would assist the organization with maintaining essential functions and operations.

The current set of circumstances that we are experiencing throughout the world is unparalleled in both its scope and impact. Furthermore, within our organization, there are few established precedents, constitutional entries, bylaws or procedures available for our instruction and guidance in these circumstances. We have entered into uncharted waters and must rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual-mindedness of the church's leadership to chart our course and to navigate us safely and triumphantly.

This document contains both "guidelines" and administrative directives respectively created to provide a basic framework that addresses what we deem as essential functions and operation of the organization.

In light of the ever-changing nature of the current crisis, these guidelines and directives cannot be considered comprehensive or exhaustive but will almost certainly require additional amending and alterations.

The following are the table of contents and reflects the data that was current during the time of this publication. We will continue to make updates as necessary and keep our church leaders and membership informed through the use of various media.

Contents

- Clinical Guidelines
- Ministerial Guidelines
- District Guidelines
- National Guidelines
- General Instructions

CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Clinical Instructions

The safety and welfare of all clergy, congregants, family and friends are our utmost priority. Consequently we are encouraging everyone to follow the health and safety guidelines established by Center for Disease Control and your local health professionals.

As the Chief Executive Officer of our church, I personally recommend that all in-person gatherings be suspended and that other non-contact resources be employed. Nevertheless, if a church desires to continue in-person meetings the following guidelines are currently suggested by the national Center For Disease Control:

MINISTERIAL GUIDELINES

The best way to prevent getting Covid19 is to never be exposed to it all! So do all you can to “stay at home!” Try to limit all excursions and errands to once a week! Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds.

- All common/ frequently touched areas will be sanitized before all meetings.
- Hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes will be available at all entry points and throughout the building.
- When possible, remove doors so knobs or handles will not become places for contamination
- Maintain a minimum of six feet of separation for “social distancing.” (tape off sections on pews or stagger chairs to ensure that proper social distancing is achieved.)
- Sanitize all microphones, podiums and stands. (Pastors should have their personal microphone that only they use!)

Any person exhibiting any type of illness; cough, fever, general discomfort **STAY AT HOME!** In fact, EVERYONE should stay at home!:

- Wear face masks and gloves
- Omit all contact greetings ie. handshakes, hugs and kisses.
- Do not gather together for altar prayer or conduct any activity that would render anyone closer than six feet from one another. (Congregants will remain at their seats during prayer and refrain from breaking the social distancing guidelines)
- All pamphlets, bulletins and other such literature will be “self-serve.” (strongly recommend that all distribution of material stop! – considered sending bulletins by text or email.)

- Ushers will wear gloves at all times and maintain proper social distancing guidelines.
- Parents will keep all minor children in their space and children will not be permitted to “wander” about the space where others are present.
- An unattended receptacle will be made available for attendant’s to give their tithes and offering.
- Financial personnel should wear gloves and masks when counting money while maintaining proper social distancing guidelines.

Concerning Issuing the Sacraments

Regarding the practice of baptism, the Lord’s supper and the washing of feet, we strongly encourage you to postpone the observation of these sacraments until such time as the governing medical authorities deem it safe. Ephesians 2:8 gives us a very clear understanding of just how our salvation is obtained. Scripture tells us that salvation is acquired by faith through God’s grace alone “not of works— it is a gift of God.” This pandemic crisis provides us with an opportunity to provide people with the sound doctrine of salvation that baptism and the other religious rites and sacraments do not afford us salvation. “We are saved by faith through grace.” Postponing the sacraments does not postpone their salvation it only postpones their public testimony.

Membership Maintenance

- During this pandemic it is important that your membership doesn’t feel abandoned or neglected. The following are ideas that may help to keep your congregation feeling cared for and engaged.



We encourage you to visit our the “Covid19 Best Practices For Churches” section of our national web page to find new ideas and share some of your own.

- Divide the membership roster and assigned certain members to make weekly contacts with members. (this could be via phone, text, email or Face-time)
- Live stream and/or conduct a conference call or Zoom meeting to air your Sunday services, bible studies or prayer meetings.
- Create special services for your seniors; make sure they have all their necessities; masks, gloves, sanitizers and other needs.
- Conduct a bi-weekly conference call or zoom meeting with your leaders or perhaps your entire membership.
- Utilize giving platforms like Cash App or Givelify to assist with collection of tithes and offerings.
- Mail out stamped self addressed envelopes for members to mail their tithes and offering.
- Send our happy birthday and anniversary cards and remember to honor your graduates via social media.

Local Temple Assistance

We are aware that the Covid 19 crisis may impact our temples financially and emotionally. In effort to address this situation the national church has compiled video training to assist temples with successfully launching on line streaming, assistance with securing methods of collecting tithes and offerings as well as

communicating ways and strategies to keep your congregation engaged throughout this time.

For help with live streaming and online donations and other Covid19 strategies go to:

<http://www.ctlgcwff.org/national-covid19-response.html>

DISTRICT GUIDELINES

In the event that we will be unable to hold our annual district conventions in our usual manner, it will be necessary to implement alternative measures intended to allow us to maintain all essential district functions and operations. In the event that such actions are necessary, it will be imperative that each district bishop and district official implement a new protocol in a manner that would ensure congruent and equitable results throughout the brotherhood.

Each district bishop with the assistance of the overseeing elder is responsible for keeping their perspective district membership both informed and engaged. In order to accomplish this objective each bishop has been required to create a written plan that describes in detail their strategic Covid19 contingency plan. The plans are due to be completed no later than Monday, April 20, 2020.

2020 Virtual Town Hall Meetings

We are currently hosting Virtual Town Hall meetings with each district’s membership. Eve-

ryone is welcome to attend. You can find the date, time as well as links, phone numbers and entry codes for your district's Virtual Town Hall meeting by going to our national web site at:

<http://www.ctlgcwff.org/national-covid19-response.html>

NATIONAL GUIDELINES

The 2020 BNAC/FOUNDERS' DAY weekend planned for April 25—26, 2020 has been canceled due to the current Covid19 crisis. We have officially canceled all of the national contracts with the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel but we strongly encourage everyone who may have made reservations for this weekend, contact the reservations desk and cancel your personal reservations to be sure you will not be charged. In addition, we are asking that everyone please keep Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 10 a.m.—12 noon C.S.T. open. We plan to launch a multi-platform interactive virtual meeting. So, everyone that was scheduled to present will still be able to present as well as hold both full group and small group “break-out” sessions during our time together. Likewise, we want you to join us on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 6 p.m. C.S.T. for our annual Founders' Day Service. This too will be aired in a multi-platform capacity and we strongly encourage everyone to participate. Concerning those who may have purchased BNAC 2020 T shirts; due to Covid19 logistic issues, you may either request a refund or use you T shirt purchases as a donation to the national ministry efforts. We will be contacting you shortly to discover which option you desire.

2020 National Convention

The national planning council is currently devising a contingency plan in the event that we will

not be able gather due to the Covid19 crisis. The health and safety of our entire membership remains our top priority. If we need to cancel this year's meeting we will notify our leadership no later than June 1, 2020 and will provide a detail plan that will enable us to continue all essential national functions and operations.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

What Can You Do?

MOST IMPORTANTLY: We need each of you to pray that the Holy Spirit would bless all of our leadership with wisdom and understanding on how God desires us to lead his church during this season. And to pray that his grace and mercy would keep and cover and keep all of us safe in his arms.

NEXT IMPORTANT MATTER: Practice personal safety by frequently washing your hands, avoiding any gatherings, wearing face masks and gloves- and whenever possible .. **STAY AT HOME!**

THEN BE PATIENT WITH EVERYONE: This matter is new to all of us and even though we all desire to do our best, there will be some mistakes along the way. **PRAY FOR US!**

FINALLY BE SUPPORTIVE: Continue to support the local, district and national by encouraging your local pastor – participating in live-stream activities, calling, texting and emailing members and leaders to keep them encourage – and continue to **SUPPORT THE CHURCH FINANCIALLY. - THERE'S A BLESSING IN THIS ... I KNOW!**

This issue was written by Bishop Rex M. Waddell, pastor of the Church of the Living God (C.W.F.F.) temple 203 or Fairview Heights, Illinois and the Chief presiding bishop of the Church of the Living God (C.W.F.F.) National Brotherhood. We are inviting interested writers to become contributors of this quarterly publication. You may do so by sending an article not longer than 400 words to bishop-waddell@gmail.com Deadlines for our second issue is June 15, 2020. Blessings to you!

Bishop Rex M Waddell