

## **Emanuel Church Safety Guideline Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

In keeping with our nation's and state's guidelines, Emanuel Church has decided to suspend regular services until **May 3rd, 2020**. **We will stream live worship and sermons on Sunday mornings from 10:00AM – 12:00PM**. We are also suspending all regular rehearsal schedules for band, orchestra, and choir until further notice. We will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis and will provide further guidance and decisions as the crisis unfolds. In the context of this national emergency and the special circumstances within the state of California regarding the coronavirus pandemic, we would like to bring to your attention some of the basic safety measures that can help all of us in this time. We emphasize that although this is a trying time for the world and our community, this is also a time when Christ shines the most and presents us with ministry opportunities to show love and care to one another.

1. **Limit your mobility.** Leave home only for urgent matters: going to work, hospital or pharmacy, going out for your personal needs such as groceries. Perhaps the most important safety measure is to restrict making unnecessary trips.
2. **Wash and sanitize your hands.** Very often and especially when you first arrive home. Do not touch your face (eyes, nose, mouth) especially if you did not sanitize your hands first.
3. **Social distancing.** This refers to our conscious effort to reduce close contact between people and hopefully stymie community transmission of the virus. Small gatherings and house prayer groups are probably okay as long as nobody has symptoms. As soon as someone seems sick, you should probably not get together. When in public places try to keep a minimum of 6 feet (2m) distance from people. If you feel sick for whatever reason, please don't come out in public and isolate yourself until you feel well.
4. **Declining someone's handshake.** Making sure that we still make eye contact and smile when we're greeting someone is important. An openhanded greeting, where you just open your hand or do a head nod, is still an expression of love and respect.
5. **Cultivate a positive attitude.** We need to avoid long drawn-out discussions on the virus. It could be an unusual conversation starter, but we should focus more on being positive, sharing Christ's love, building faith in others and bringing hope in a time of fear.
6. **Keep practicing a prayerful heart.** *Sunday, March 15* was declared a National Day of Prayer. We need to pray for each other, for our loved ones and our friends. We also pray for President Trump, Vicepresident Pence and for all the people in leadership. We need to pray for all the doctors and medical personnel as well as first responders including our police department and members of our armed services who work hard while risking their lives in this crisis. Let's spend the next couple of weeks rebuilding the altars in our homes and focus our efforts on having a Christ-centered family.

7. **Keep practicing a servant heart.** Now is the time when we can help each other, and we can especially help our elderly brothers and sisters. We need to ensure that our vulnerable population is assisted with love. A special task force of young people from RSRXN Youth are willing to address the needs of the elderly by making check-up phone calls, purchasing and delivering groceries and running errands for those who can't leave their homes.

**Conclusions:** Emanuel Church is committed to provide an environment of safety and peace for all in attendance at our worship services. We will take all the precautionary measures to keep property, facilities and equipment clean and sanitized at all times.

As we stay in prayer, it is important that we remain vigilant. We advise pastors as well as all of our members not to attend any gathering of any kind at church if they are ill. All pastors, leaders or members of the congregation who become ill and display symptoms of COVID-19 during a gathering will be isolated immediately. We are supplying tissues and alcohol-based hand sanitizers at gatherings and will provide bins for disposal of tissues. We will ensure hand-washing facilities, including soap and disposable towels, are well maintained. We are ensuring all hard surfaces that are frequently touched, such as door handles, handrails, taps and pews are cleaned and sanitized regularly. If someone in our Emanuel community becomes ill with COVID-19 we will continue to suspend our services and inform the community. We are committed to complying with all the measures and decisions made by the local and federal authorities regarding the safety of our congregation and our community.

Credem ca acest timp de neceaz a venit peste lumea intreaga cu permisiunea lui Dumnezeu, Cel care este si ramane mereu la carma creatiei Lui. Credem ca in acest timp Dumnezeu face o chemare la pocainta, pentru fiecare suflet, pentru familie, pentru comunitati, pentru tara si pentru natii. Prin Evanghelie si prin Biserica Domnul face o chemare la mantuire prin Isus Hristos. Este vremea sa stam uniti in dragostea lui Dumnezeu, sa veghem asupra rugaciunii si sa fim ancorati puternic in Hristos. Aceasta experienta poate fi inceputul unei adevarate treziri spirituale. (2Cron. 7:14).

Stim de asemenea ca promisiunile lui Dumnezeu sunt adevarate, copiii Lui s-au convins mereu de dragostea si atotputernicia Lui. Cel credincios poate zice si azi ca psalmistul: *“El este locul meu de scapare si cetatea mea, Dumnezeul meu in care ma incred.”* (Ps 91:1-16).

Asadar, rugandu-ne, trebuie sa ne amintim ca: *“exista teama dar nu trebuie sa fie ura, exista izolare dar nu trebuie sa fie singuratate, exista boala dar nu trebuie sa fie si o maladie a sufletului. Da, exista chiar moarte dar totdeauna va exista o renastere a iubirii, va exista o inviere prin Isus Cristos, Cel care a zis: “Eu sunt invierea si viata”* (Ioan 11: 25).

Nu va temeti, a spus Isus ucenicilor, Eu sunt! Acelasi cuvint ni-l spune noua, celor de azi. El este Cel care ne tine in mana Lui, Cel care potoleste furtuna, Cel care ne trece de partea cealalta. *“Indrazniti, Eu sunt, nu va temeti!”* – Matei 14:27

Pastor Ovidiu Dorin Druhora