



May 2, 2020

Hello GBC!

I am praying this finds you well and that you are being strengthened in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As many of you may know, the governor has released the phase one guidelines for reopening businesses in the state of Florida. This new order goes into effect on 5/4. The Alachua County Commission has chosen to follow the governor's orders with two additions. According to the state, churches will be allowed to gather as long as they meet social distancing guidelines.

We previously announced our intention to gather on 5/3. Since the new order will not go into effect until 5/4, GBC has decided to wait until next Sunday (5/10) to gather. During this week, we will continue to consult with leadership from other churches, and if necessary, with governing officials to ensure that we are correctly interpreting the new rules. Please continue to pray for wisdom as we consider the health and safety of our church and our community.

I hope to give further insight regarding this on Sunday morning. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Pastor Brandon

### Sunday morning worship services

While we are all excited to be able to meet in-person again, our gatherings will need to be held under very strict observance of social distancing practices, strict hygiene practices, and other physical and practical efforts to minimize the risk of new or rebound exposures to the novel coronavirus. To this end, the following will be implemented during our Sunday morning worship gatherings:

- 1) We will be using the entire conference room for the worship service in order to provide adequate room to spread out with at least 6 feet of space between individuals and families. Families will be allowed to sit together. You are encouraged to wear masks.
- 2) We will set up hand sanitizer stations at the entrance to the building, at the entrance into the conference room, and in the foyer area. Frequent and extended-duration hand washing will be highly encouraged as well.
- 3) We will use the 2 doorways to the conference room with 1 doorway strictly for entrance into the conference room and the other strictly for exiting to the foyer. Please do your best to follow the entrance/exit directions.

Church Administrative Offices: 5475 SW 75<sup>th</sup> Street, #221, Gainesville, FL 32608 (352) 519-1775



4) We will not be serving coffee or refreshments in the foyer before the worship service begins. You are welcome to bring your own beverage and snacks for yourself and/or your family. We ask that you be mindful to dispose of all trash and to avoid spills in the conference room.

5) We will not be offering childcare out of a desire to minimize infection exposure risk and in accordance with social distancing practices. Young children are welcome to sit with their parents during the worship service. We will also broadcast the service livestream on one of the flatscreen TV's in the foyer if you wish to sit and watch the service from there.

6) We ask that folks refrain from coming to service if they have any signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection or potential concerns for exposure to the novel coronavirus. You are encouraged to continue to join us from home via the livestream.

7) If you are in a category of people considered high-risk for severe COVID-19 infection or complications from COVID-19 infection, we ask that you consider continuing to stay at home and joining us via the livestream.

8) We will plan to observe communion on May 10<sup>th</sup> using self-serve packets containing the communion elements. These will be placed on a table in the foyer for individual pickup before the service begins.

9) We will not have our church-wide fellowship lunch as part of efforts to practice social distancing and reduce virus exposure risk.

10) We encourage folks to avoid extended conversations in groups indoors and to take conversations outside where more space is available to spread out.

All of the above will remain in effect until further notice. We will continue to monitor proposed regulations and restrictions and adjust our Sunday morning practices accordingly.

#### *Bible studies*

Men's and women's studies will continue to meet via video conferencing for the month of May. We will be discussing whether and how to arrange a youth group meeting via video conferencing as well.

#### *Video conferencing*

We will be using Google Meet for all of our video conferencing meetings. For smartphone and tablet users, please download the Google Meet app to your device. Individuals who join meetings from a computer can use their browser (Google Chrome recommended). Please note that you do not need a personal G Suites account to join a Google Meet video conference. You can join all of our meetings using the invitation URL/link or phone number with meeting code that will be sent to the congregation via BAND and/or email.