



THE HOUSE OF GOD

WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD
THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH
WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, INC.
KEITH DOMINION

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September 22, 2020

For it is written, “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (I Timothy 3:15-16)

To the saints of the House Of God Church everywhere it is established. This has been an extremely hard year. We are in the eye of the storm right now and I am reminding each of you, we are all in this together. Together, we will weather this storm by relying on and trusting in God and by taking care of ourselves and each other. The constant messages of “isolate” and “keep your social distance” can make us feel alone, but the physical connections we sometimes rely on are not as strong as our God who gives us shelter from the storm and peace to see it through.

I have prayed and I am convinced our God has allowed this pandemic calamity to refocus our faith in him and strengthen our need to learn more of him through his word. For it is written, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:3,7) God has given all of us the opportunity to draw closer to him and to each other through the word of God and the power of God in us by the Holy Ghost. It is up to us to use this quiet time for prayer, fasting, studying, learning, and patiently accepting God’s will during this storm. We are not alone. We will never be alone. God is with us and will hear us and will heal our land.

I am aware of your desire for the in-person worship experience we have known, practiced, and thoroughly enjoyed. I miss it as well. But as your Chief Overseer, I am obligated to put your health, safety and well-being and the interests of the church first. Accordingly, the Chief Helpers and I have reviewed all current and reliable medical, scientific information and health directives and the following has been summarized:

- There remains a lack of free and available testing sites to accurately and quickly provide test results to prevent and help trace community spread. Especially, now that states are opening, and interstate/intrastate travel is increasing.

- The influenza and COVID-19 virus will have a double impact this fall and winter.
- 80% of our church population is 60 years of age, some with serious underlying conditions.
- The winter season will prolong the life span of COVID-19 airborne droplets, especially in closed environments, increasing infection exposures.
- There is very little availability of high quality, well-fitting surgical masks.
- There is no guarantee that any amount of deep cleaning, sanitation, masking, and social distancing in a closed environment will lessen or prevent the COVID-19 infection and community spread.
- There will not be proven vaccines or medicines to combat this virus until “sometime” in 2021.

Given the realities of this information, our responsibilities to protect the saints of God and His church, we deem it prudent and wise **to continue the suspension of ALL in-person worship services and activities until January 31, 2021. We will continue to monitor all information and developments and communicate any changes that may occur.**

We will wait patiently for God’s will to be done. In the meantime, a team led by Risk Management, will finalize a complete strategy for approval that will guide the **HOGC** in an orderly and safe re-opening phase.

I ask you to please pray for me, all of our leaders everywhere and for each other as we seek God, believe God, and thank God for his mercy and deliverance.

Your humble servant,

Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher