



## MORAVIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, SOUTHERN PROVINCE

*Provincial Elders' Conference*

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May 7, 2020

**To: Pastors, Fellowship Coordinators, Church Boards**  
**From: Provincial Elders' Conference**  
**Re: UPDATE "Reopening" Church Events and Activities**

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This memo provides information in addition to our April 27 communication. It is primarily intended for congregations and fellowships in North Carolina, based on the [May 5 executive order](#) of the Governor. Congregations in other states should review their particular situations, and any directives from their state or local civil authorities.

The Governor's order moves North Carolina into Phase 1 of the reopening process outlined by the White House last month.

- Phase 1 does not permit gatherings inside church facilities of more than 10 people, with the exception of funerals, which may be no more than 50. And, these gatherings require social distancing and other protective measures. (See the end of this memo).
- At least until North Carolina enters Phase 2, We strongly recommend that:
  - Church staff continue to work from home as much as possible. Other than paid staff or volunteer staff with specific essential responsibilities, members should not be inside church facilities.
  - Church meetings (boards, committees, Bible studies, fellowships, etc.) continue to utilize technology to meet remotely.
  - Those over the age of 65, those with underlying health conditions, and those with weakened immune systems remain at home as much as possible.
- The Governor's order does allow outdoor worship gatherings of groups larger than 10, provided social distancing and disease transmission precautions are in place. If a congregation or fellowship is inclined to have an out-of-doors worship service for more than 10 people, we strongly encourage this not occur before May 31 (Pentecost), and only after the necessary planning, preparation and communication to ensure everyone's health and safety.
- Congregational leaders should continue to use our April 27 memo as a guide for conversations, decisions, and actions to prepare for the time when larger-group indoor gatherings may be allowed. It also contains the recommended steps for preventing illness provided by the Centers for Disease Control.

Please continue in prayer for families, congregations, neighbors, communities and those around the world as we all face these challenging and uncertain days.

The Provincial Elders' Conference

These are the “*Recommendations to Promote Social Distancing and Reduce Transmission*” found in the Governor’s executive order:

Individuals leaving their residence for Allowable Activities are strongly advised to take the following steps to reduce transmission:

1. Maintain at least six (6) feet social distancing from other individuals, with the exception of family or household members.
2. Wear a cloth Face Covering when leaving home and wear it inside all public settings such as grocery stores, pharmacies, or other retail or public-serving businesses. A Face Covering should also be worn outdoors when you cannot maintain at least six (6) feet distancing from other people with the exception of family or household members. These coverings function to protect other people more than the wearer.
3. Carry hand sanitizer with you when leaving home, and use it frequently.
4. Wash hands using soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds as frequently as possible.
5. Regularly clean high-touch surfaces such as steering wheels, wallets, phones.
6. Stay at home if sick.