Greeting Greater Harvest,

Some of you may wonder and have serious questions about the path that I as a responsible Christian leader have chosen to take by allowing those desiring to worship to come and do so. First of all, those of you that know me, you know that I am not an irresponsible zealot with a point to prove. Secondly, you know that I would not carelessly put myself nor God’s precious people in harms way. That is why we are taking all recommended precautions handed down by the CDC. I intend to make our facilities one of the safest places that one can attend during this trying time.

I take this pandemic very, very serious, human safety and human life is and should always be paramount to God’s leaders. People are dying at unprecedent rates and our nation as well as the world is in a state of unrest about this crisis. If you notice, I have not personally requested any staff member, parishioner or visitor to attend anything that is taking place at Church, *(as a matter of fact, I would prefer that we do not have any visitors at the time).*  I deeply respect one’s personal convictions concerning this matter. I am not going anywhere that I really don’t need to go at this crucial time. *The scripture teaches us, “to let every man be persuaded in HIS ONE MIND”*. (Rom. 14:5)

However, Here Is My Greater Point:

Have you asked yourself why would our governor allow *Liquor Stores* and *Places of Worship* to be exempt from his stay-at-home mandate. These two entities are diametrically opposite of each other in what they provide to the populous.

Conventional wisdom and experiences of the past have shown that during times of crisis wherein people’s lives have been drastically altered, people must be given something to help them cope with the crisis. Some used their faith to get them through, others use chemical dependency to help them cope.

* ***High levels of unemployment and the stress of bills and their livelihood now taken away – some depend on their faith; some turn to chemical dependency.***
* ***The stress of being home all day, dealing with the children, spouses having do deal with each other as oppose to being away for most of the day – have shown a markable increase in domestic violence.***
* ***Some use their faith, others depend on some form of chemicals, be it medication or alcohol.***
* ***Those with mental health issues, depression and loneliness, many of these people are being inundated with bad news all day as they watch the television and they need something to help the cope and give them a sense of hope or relief.***
* ***Some use their faith, others depend on some form of chemicals, be it medication or alcohol.***

Please know that these are not my personal assumptions, I’m just pointing you to what has been given to me as a community leader.

I could go on giving examples of what accompany these kinds of crisis, but I think that you see what I am saying as one of the reasons that brought about the decision of our governor in allowing religious institutions and liquor stores to stay in operation during this pandemic.

As responsible citizens of the kingdom of God and of our world, we want to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As people of faith I continue to believe that we should conduct ourselves 2 - *ways to deal with this current issue; Practically & Prayerfully; Naturally & Spiritually.*

*Do the Practical things that your mother thought you as a child – wash your hands, sneeze in the elbow, stay at home when you feel sick, etc.*

*Stay in constant Prayer – Pray that God will protect us, Pray that God will give guidance to others, that He will bring a quick end to this crisis, etc.*

That being said, we have decided to make a transition in our worship services for the present time. To ensure sufficient compliance with State and Local officials, the following will be observed.

*Worship Service Time - 9:00 - 10:30*

* *None Traditional Sunday School*
* *No Youth Classes nor rehearsals*
* *No Choir rehearsals*
* *We will not observe Communion on the 1st Sunday*
* *Online viewing will stream live on face book. (ghcf.net)*
* *Tele-Worship:*

*Call in No. ---712-432-6148*

*Conf. No. --- 989590*

*Replay NO. --- 712-432-3448 (if you need to listen at later time)*

*Social Distance:*

* *Please follow CDC guidelines, allow space between persons*

*Ministries Rotation: (Ministry leaders will give the oversight in said ministries). On a volunteer basis only*

* *Music Ministry--- Microphones should be wipe down between services.*
* *Ushers ministry.*
* *Nursery.*
* *Audio & Sound*

*Greeting & Fellowship Protocol:*

* *Doorknobs & Entrances Should Be Wipe Down Often.*
* *Wave & Elbow Bomb*
* *Hand Sanitizer, Wipes & Paper Towels Will Be Available.*

*Giving & Accounting Practices*

* *Will Not Pass The Offering Bucket, Please Walk Around.*
* *Encourage Online Giving.*
* *Accounting Staff should wear rubber gloves while handling money.*

In compliance with the executive order issued by Governor DeSantis, and the City of Jacksonville in limiting the crowd capacity of such gatherings, (*even though the latest criteria for religious gatherings have been lifted),* we are still observing the 50 people rule. We have made provisions for streaming in the fellowship hall if necessary.