

May 25, 2020

Dear Congregation,

I wanted to follow up with what was announced during yesterday morning's worship service. I first of all want to thank the Council for their leadership during this time. It isn't without much discussion and debate that we came to the decision we did. The decision was made with a spirit of unity and purpose for our congregation. Thank you also to David Bekkering for sharing the announcement with everyone yesterday.

I wanted to highlight a couple of things that David mentioned in his announcement yesterday. Due to the restrictions from the Alberta Government, we have decided to continue worshiping on Livestream only until the government allows 50% of the congregation and congregational singing is allowed. Here are some of the restrictions as given to us by the Alberta Government*:

- Limiting attendance to 50 people
- Physical distancing will be in place for seating
- We will not have Nursery or Sunday school in order to keep children with their families.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for use.
- The facility will be cleaned and sanitized between worship services.
- We will not be having coffee after the service
- "Congregational singing is a high-risk activity and is not allowed."
- "Ensuring that there are no individuals with chronic medical conditions or those over 65 present."¹

As David highlighted, because we want to respect what Paul writes in Romans 13:1-2 "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

We honor the governing authorities by following their guidelines. But we also urge and encourage you to write the Premier, Dr. Hinshaw and your local MLA. You can write them an email at:

- The honourable Premier of Alberta Jason Kenney: premier@gov.ab.ca
- Minister Grant Hunter: Taber.Warner@assembly.ab.ca
- Minister Joseph Schow: Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca (for those in Vauxhall and North)
- Chief Medical Officer Dr. Deena Hinshaw: Deena.Hinshaw@gov.ab.ca

Thank you for your patience, and we look forward to the time when we can worship together in person!

Together in Christ,
Pastor Brian

¹ To see the whole list of guidance from Alberta: <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>