



Christ Baptist Church Mokopane

31/05/2020

Reg no. 930063394 Dear CBC Congregants & Friends

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As you are aware President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that churches can open during level 3 of the Covid-19 lockdown.

As elders we have considered the announcement and agree that just because we may gather, it does not mean we must. There are still a number of questions and concerns that are yet to be addressed. These are all matters which a number of church leaders across the country are grappling with.

We need to do what is right and best for our church during this time. The Word of God says in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (ESV) *"All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour."*

Furthermore, we have studied the 8-page government gazette dated 28 May which spell out the regulations. We would like to list them as it has influenced our decision:

Gathering:

1. We may gather from 7 June in the church facility only. Small groups in homes are not allowed. Children's church will not be allowed, nor fellowship.
2. Only 50 people may attend. Who do we turn away and how?
3. The church leaders and Pastor Lucas are accountable under the law, and could be punished if we contravene the law. Legal implications could be great if somebody contracts the virus due to our negligence.
4. All must be screened, which means taking temperatures, screening forms need to be filled in, and the building must be sanitized before and after each service.

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5. If you have any of the symptoms, the leadership will need to isolate you and make sure you are transported for a medical check-up. A list must be provided with all the contact details of anybody that you were in contact with at the church, and immediately sanitise areas that you were in.
6. A registry of all who attend the services must also be kept.

Social distancing.

1. 1.5 meters must be established between all individuals.
2. Congregational singing is also not allowed.

Personal protection.

1. Masks have to be worn for the full duration of the service.
2. We cannot share in Holy Communion.
3. Those who count offerings must sanitise before, during, and after counting offering.

Sanitising.

1. There is a long list of sanitising rules and regulations that complicates our set-up as we share the building with another congregation. Bathrooms must also be sanitized between services. All other rooms will be locked.

Health protocols.

1. All seating must be demarcated and allocated.
2. A register must be kept of every service, with all your personal details. This must be kept for 6 months.
3. At the start of every service, the congregation must be educated on dangers of Covid-19
4. No socialising before or after the service is allowed.
5. All those older than 60 must stay at home, and the vulnerable should stay home too.

Member Demographic.

1. 36% of our regular attendees are vulnerable or above 60. (not including children)

Elder decision:

After careful consideration for our congregation and the need to err on the side of safety rather than risk, the elders have decided to continue the way we are now and not start public services. We'll revisit this decision at the end of June. We'll continue to meet Wednesdays & Fridays via zoom. Our services will also be streamed on Sundays.

We will also continue to make groups within the church so that we can all remain in constant communication. We will also continue to provide parcels for those in need. With the regulations of level 3, we are working toward the necessary permits to provide pastoral counselling and visitation where necessary. If possible, we would also like to encourage you to remain faithful with your giving in order to fulfil our current ministry.

We are looking forward to gathering again. We would like to experience Acts 2:37-42 in its fullest which includes fellowship. We miss everyone dearly. However, we have reached the decision to put the lives of God's people first. Please join us in praying for wisdom and discernment in this regard as time marches on. We have the responsibility to care for those whom God has entrusted to us.

On behalf of the CBC leaders,
Pastor Lucas Stoltz