Pastor’s Statement:
“The Opening of Houses of Worship for Religious Assembly”
May 23, 2020

Many of you are aware that US President Donald Trump issued a mandate on yesterday, Friday, May 22, 2020, declaring churches, mosques, synagogues, and houses of worship, as providers of “essential services,” and threatened to override governors of states, who refuse to reopen them this weekend.

I was a part of a statewide, nine-member clergy taskforce which participated in a one and a half hour briefing with the CA Governor’s office on this past Thursday, reviewing necessary protocols which are being developed, and are scheduled for release from Governor Gavin Newsom’s office on May 25, 2020.

As of the writing of this statement, there are over 97,000 confirmed COVID-19-related deaths recorded in the US since February 28, 2020. That number is up over one thousand in the past 24 hours. Epidemiologists, scientists, physicians, and professionals working within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have warned against efforts to reengage in social and physical gatherings prematurely, pointing out the threat of a resurgence or a second spiking in numbers of transmitted cases.

There is perhaps justification in the healthy tension and engagement related to the proper timing of reopening of the US economy. Some suggest that an extensive delay in economic re-engagement within the country could result in an avoidable economic recession, or even a depression. Others suggest that the risk of a massive spiking in transmission numbers are much more costly than any possible economic gains made at the potential costs of massive illness and any related loss of life.

Retail outlets, factories, banks/financial outlets, transportation providers, the travel and the hospitality industry, along with medical service providers, are perhaps justified in being declared “Essential Economic Service Providers.” However, sports, entertainment, and religious organizations/institutions can effectively provide their services in ways not requiring the assembly of massive crowds, by using a variety of technology platforms., thereby lessening the possibility of spreading the coronavirus disease. No doubt added value can be seen in those concepts, over a reasonable and safe period of time.

Please know that FAME Church has developed an extensive, “23-Point Crisis Recovery Plan,” which sets and lays out proper and responsible protocols intended to lessen the risk of transmission by or to persons who may visit the FAME campus for any reason. However, please understand that we will not be announcing a resumption of “in person” worship services, funerals, assemblies, nor religious gatherings until we are comfortably assured by the data provided this administration by the scientists and medical professionals whose data and judgement we have come to trust.

Until all is clear, please continue to join us on our “Livestreaming Broadcasts,” Zoom Bible Studies, Prayer Calls, and the other chat/communication/and technology fellowship opportunities listed on the FAME Church of Los Angeles, website (www.famechurchla.org).

Sincerely,

Pastor “J” Edgar Boyd