

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

1. Further COVID-19 Reminders: As governmental restrictions in various locations are lifted, you will need to prayerfully consider how this will affect your activities. Generally, we may be more cautious than the secular authorities and our neighbors, who are often eager to resume activities for economic reasons. (Eccl. 7:12) Each family head must decide the wisest course for their household. (Gal. 6:5) Personal circumstances vary greatly. Therefore, what may be a prudent decision for one may be unwise for another and what may be safe in one location may be unsafe in another. To the extent possible, it is recommended to stay at home, to maintain social distancing, to clean hands frequently, to wear face coverings in public settings, to limit physical contact with older and high-risk publishers, and to be prepared for a medical emergency. If you decide to resume employment or other essential activities, please take all reasonable precautions. If you experience cold or flu-like symptoms, you should self quarantine, notify your healthcare provider, and inform those you have been in contact with.

2. Since some treatments for COVID-19 may include the use of blood, such as plasma, having an executed durable power of attorney (DPA) card will help to ensure that your wishes are respected. Additionally, some who recover from COVID-19 are being asked to donate their plasma to help others. Because we do not donate blood, a kind refusal in reply is all that is needed.

3. Please note that regardless of direction from secular authorities, the Kingdom Hall should not be used until the branch office provides approval to do so. Additionally, as stated in the letter dated March 20, 2020, to all congregations in the U.S. branch territory, all forms of the public ministry (including the door-to-door work as well as any form of public witnessing) remain discontinued until further advised by the branch office.

4. Thank you for your diligent efforts to care for yourselves and others, all for “God’s glory.” (1 Cor. 10:31) We encourage you to remain alert to additional direction provided by the organization regarding this pandemic.