

ELDERS MEETING VIRTUAL 3-18/19-2020

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE PLANNING
THE "LEHIGH CONNECT" MEMORANDUM

Hello!

This is Pastor Hoilette, I thought it would be necessary for you to hear my voice on the matters before us!

I hope all is well with each of you both physically and Spiritually.

The times in which we are living are not ordinary times, yet they call for EXTRAORDINARY LIVING. These are times when we truly test HEAVENLY LIVING on EARTH. We are assured of God's presence with us in the PRESENT as well as in the FUTURE.

I strongly encourage the reading of the Holy Scriptures where Jesus speaks of the days before HIS SECOND COMING and the relevant WRITINGS of Ellen White as she addresses "LAST DAY EVENTS"

My presentation to you this evening is to serve as a MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING between us as Leaders of our congregation and Elders over our various Ministries under the Shepherding of Pastor Andre Campbell and Myself.

This Memorandum is to inspire what should become known as the LEHIGH CONNECT. It particularly serves to address FIRSTLY the current PANDEMIC of the CORONAVIRUS, and SECONDLY, the possible LONG-HAUL of how the church may function effectively in the event of being dispersed in the proverbial "WILDERNESS" during times of difficulty of oppression and opposition that is yet to come upon our world. CHRIST has not left us in doubt concerning the last days.

This Memorandum comes to you after thoughtful considerations amidst the daily dynamic and shifting information being dispensed to us both as a Nation and State through the channels of the Federal Government, The CDC, and the State of Florida.

The Memorandum is the result of two 2 hour meetings that I have had with Pastor Andre Campbell, Elder Troy Campbell, First Elder, Elder Wilton Blake, Second Elder, and Elder Paul Mears, Third Elder.

In this first section of my presentation tonight I will provide context for where we are, by virtue of where we are coming from.

1. Initial discussions around the occurrence of the CORONA VIRUS, began TWO WEEKS ago when I requested of our Health Department under the Eldership of Elder Clifton Barrett and the able Leadership of Sis Sherice Robinson, to huddle together with the Medical personnel of their committee, given their expertise, and consequently prepare a statement for the church as to what our hygienic and behavioral response should be in the light of this virus. (As a precursor to that request Elder Blake and myself were in consultation with the Risk Management dept. of the Florida Conference in order to get our "ducks in row". I brought Pastor Andre Campbell up to date on this.)

The Committee responded and the statement was promptly prepared in time to be read upon my directive on Sabbath March 7, 2020. Dr. Widelyn Alexis represented the committee and read those guidelines to the church. In addition, as per the Committee's plan, under Elder Barrett's and Sis Sherice Robinson leadership, a handout was also provided and distributed for readership.

That action Plan was the First Leadership strategy invoked to keep our church informed and aware of the possible danger of this virus. This HEALTH ALERT ANNOUNCEMENT, for all practical purposes, placed us in a position to get out in front of the impending problem.

1. The Second Action we took under the Leadership of Elder Locke, as Elder over the Royal Knights Club and Sis Bromfield as Executive Director, was to cancel the Pathfinder Camp which was scheduled for the following weekend on March 13-17, 2020. A very responsible Leadership decision, although disappointing to our kids.
2. The third Action we took in consultation with Pastor Andre, the Florida Conference, and the Lead Elders was to cancel services at the church for Sabbath March 14, 2020. In doing so we employed all the means we could to alert all the people we could asking that the word be spread around as best it could on the Friday the 13th of March 2020. Concomitantly, we asked Pastor Andre to preach a word of assurance and perspective from the PULPIT to what was to be an EMPTY church and with the help of Sis Sanncha KISS effect a broadcast to the community of saints in order to provide "CONNECT" and encouragement.

So that was accomplished. I want to thank all those who made the above possible, and affirm their Leadership in the moment. That's one of the reasons that our church has Elders and Leaders who work together for the common good.

1. So that was Sabbath the 14th, of March. On Monday in discussion with Pastor Andre we decided to reach out to our Lead elders and convene a meeting to discuss the further dynamic developments of the CORONAVIRUS and the National response and CDC bulletins being issued. Of note is the fact that our thoughts for that meeting changed because information coming at us, changed between 12, noon and 3pm on that day. This virus had developed fast in its widening coverage across the Nation. The guidelines had CHANGED and we had to adapt quickly. —On Monday Night we convened, shared our thoughts and began the process of preparation for the future. We gave ourselves assignments to speak with certain Elders and Directors regarding certain Church functions. WE DETERMINED THAT OUR NEXT MOVE HAD TO BE THAT OF MEETING WITH ALL THE ELDERS. -IN THAT MEETING, we were particularly concerned about our Elderly population of our church and their needs in this milieu. Needs for Food, and I was particularly concerned about them having sufficient MEDICATION on Hand, in case of any UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. — Specific names were mentioned, and reiterated by Elder Troy. We assigned Elder Blake and myself to contact Sis Locke Sis Carmelita and Bro Joe and Sis Joan Pascoe. We knew that these individuals were always constantly on the job. —THEY do an Amazing job daily in attending to our elderly. True to our Knowledge when I reached out the next day and Elder Blake did his contacts, the ACC Team was already on the job! We had many other matters on our agenda, which we addressed.
2. We decided to meet again last night on Tuesday, March 17 to report to each other ensuring we would cover all the bases and prepare for this meeting, with you, the entire group of elders.

SO HERE WE ARE< and the date is MARCH 19, 2020.

DISEASE STATUS:

The STATUS of the disease is;
13017 cases
185 deaths.

REALITIES:

These are the REALITIES of functioning going forward that as LEADERS I am asking us to ADHERE to.
Please have your pens and pencils ready so you can record what our obligations as well as process will be going forward.

FIRST HERE ARE SOME EMERGING PARAMETERS THAT WE MAY ARE FACING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR LIVES.

“FAITH must NOT Negate WISDOM”

This is about FACTS and not FEAR!

A. THE Optimum legalese across major States is A STATE OF EMERGENCY: Possibility exists that people may be directed at some point to “SHELTER IN PLACE”. Currently we are at the level of a quasi “self imposed quarantine” which, in current language, is a request for people to stay at home if you do not HAVE to go anywhere.

—TRAVEL BAN for travel outside the Country invoked this evening
Hurry home, or Shelter in Place

B. We now have to observe SOCIAL DISTANCE of 6ft. From each other

C. Gatherings are now at a suggested limit of 10, it may be decreased to 6.

D. Business will not be conducted as usual ; Businesses will deny access to their premises. More Online shopping.

E. Churches will be closed, including ours.

G. More Internet /Social media utilization

H. We will be operating in 15 day increments which may last for 8 weeks. In our case we will initially be closed for the next two sabbaths, until further notice.

-SABBATH and WEDNESDAY night Services will be conducted by Pastor Campbell through the various Media listed later on.

-Prior to our Sabbath live broadcasts we will endeavor to have pre-recorded music

I. Outside limit for the rage of the virus until the CURVE is Flattened is probably as far out as AUGUST

ELDERS:

1. I am asking ALL ELDERS to reach out to ALL your Department Directors on a regular basis in order to keep CONNECTED. First order of business is to relay to them ACCURATELY / PRODUCTIVELY everything you hear tonight in this meeting. Ensure that the information FILTERS down to your committee members. YOU are now the PRIMARY CONDUCTORS of INFORMATION. OUR COMMUNICATION must be POSITIVE!
2. Elders who have Clerks Treasury and Communication under their direction kindly relay our proceedings here tonight immediately to them.
3. Kindly make yourselves aware of the PLATFORMS we are deploying for the preaching and transmission of the WORD which will be presented by pastor Campbell during this time. You can also use these platforms and more to keep connected with your Department Heads and Committee members.
4. The Platforms are as follows: Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, Lehigh Livestream, Messenger, Email, Phone Tree, zoom, Prayer Line, 209 399 9985 Teleconference. (Skype, FaceTime, Oovoo)
5. Elder Troy will provide you with the Phone Conference no. Which is a free service, so you can manage your Departments electronically.
6. If there is something you do not know, or you are not sure about, kindly ask Elder Troy, Pastor Campbell, or Pastor Hoilette. We will endeavor to respond or guide you to the proper response.

SABBATH SCHOOL:

1. Requesting that Elder Morgan and Sabbath School Elders /Leaders formulate a Plan to have sabbath lesson conducted
2. Please have a plan for distribution of Quarterlies in the near future given 13th sabbath approaching
3. Utilize the identified platforms along with others
4. The Sabbath School Lesson may be conducted by presenting it through teleconference/ zoom, online (Facebook etc.)
5. Sabbath School Lesson studies on 3ABN and Hope Channel may also be employed for broadcast.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES:

1. Encourage Personal Ministries leadership, Interest Coordinator, and Bible Workers to maintain weekly electronic contact with Baptismal interests.
2. The First Evangelistic Outreach Meeting has been cancelled until such time as we can convene.
3. Current three minute testimonials related to witness in these times may be pre-recorded to be shared, if appropriate.

DIVINE SERVICE

1. The divine service message broadcast will be presented at 11am on Sabbaths
2. Pastor Campbell will send prerecorded messages to Sis Sanncha Kiss and Elder Troy Campbell
3. Tithes will be returned and free will Offerings will be given through our Online giving system on the Lehigh Website

YOUTH FORUM:

Please communicate that:

1. Millennials are vulnerable
2. Youth do pose a risk of transmissions to others
3. Youth who appear to be asymptomatic can be tremendously contagious
4. 38% of hospitalizations of CORONAVIRUS are people under the age of 55.
5. There's is a risk that youth are SILENT SYMPTOMLESS CARRIERS
6. Encourage Youth to be Responsible
7. We are asking Elder Cadet & the Youth Forum Team to formulate a plan to keep the Youth connected, utilizing Social Media platforms
8. We are asking Pastor Andre Campbell to work with Elder Cadet, Sis Yvenette Charles, Bro. Michael Mears, Sis Toni Ann Johnson in engaging Young Adults and youth dialogue during this time through avenues such as Podcast and Chat systems.

Re- The ELDERLY/ VULNERABLE

1. Stay away from Nursing Homes- and Hospitals...
2. Asking ACC to check to ensure that All the Elderly have their Medications must be up to date.
3. Get medical Alert
4. Walmart a Publix Dollar general are opening their door for the vulnerable -the first hour of opening
5. Spray packages— use a bleach solution in the absence of Sanitizing wipes that are at least 6% alcohol use
6. ACC will continue to be actively engaged with our Elderly on a daily basis attending to their every need.
7. Needs for food beyond their regular service received each month, (26 packages TWICE per MONTH) from the Community Services Dept. are being attended to by the Community Services Dept. and the ACC, in a timely fashion.
8. Bro Roger Hamilton is alerted to be of financial help to our team (who attend to the Elderly, Sick and Needy), in the event that such Elderly, Sick or Needy are found to be need of assistance.

NB> Dedicated individuals led by Elder Locke and Sis Carmelita constantly take care of the Elderly and needy. Bro Joe Pascoe and Sis Joan Pascoe provide for them weekly from their own kitchen.

NOTE REGARDING SCHOOL CLOSING: EDUCATION DEPT.

Asking Elder Hinds and Sis Nadine Gordon to huddle with their committee and create a system of RESOURCE/ SUPPORT our parents and children in this time of crisis

1. Be aware of possible need for HOME SCHOOLING - encourage parents to Connect with the experts
2. 38 State Schools have closed
3. Maintain learning and seek out remote learning- Online Classes
4. Be proactive in promoting "wellness" in family activities. Worship, Play, Creativity in keeping kids occupied.
5. Young kids are not as susceptible to the disease.

6. Posture a positive atmosphere
7. Settle their fears and watch for dreams and unusual or aberrant behavior
8. New indoor "outlets" may need to be devised home per home.
9. Parents to share ideas with each other according to age groups.
10. Encourage Parents support for each other
11. Listen for the Lee County plan for food provisions and delivery
12. Keep the reward system going in church programming
13. Still focus on graduation at church as a safety net to provide a way to help students "finish" their school experience /year in the event their schools do not open again for this marking period or this year.
14. The FGCU students on campus to be remembered and reach out to them.

DEACONS and DEACONESSES:

1. Keep virtual visitation contact with the sick
2. Seek to help the needy in terms of things that need fixing around the home.
3. Disinfect the church in the meantime in coordination with Building maintenance and Risk Management Leaders.
4. Monitor the building frequently during this time.
5. The Spanish church will meet during the week this week with 8 or 10 people in attendance, but are asked NOT to meet on Sundays for the time being.

GENERAL HEALTH GUIDELINES;

1. Follow CDC, STATE and LOCAL GUIDELINES
2. CDC LINK & guidelines posted on the Website
3. Initial guidelines are in your hands since March 7, 2020
4. See the MYTH BUSTER
5. If you need additional clarification on health Guidelines please contact our HEALTH DIRECTOR Sis Sherice Robinson

The "CONNECT" CONCEPT:

Encompasses an Intentionality to:

1. Keep Our Mission & Motto Strong and advance "opportunity in the face of crisis"
2. All Departments Leaders are to be encouraged by their Elders to maintain function in the interest of their departments, keeping in contact with its members, and monitoring the dates they may have on the calendar.
3. Prevent /Manage Isolation
4. Concern and Safety for Family Friends Church and Community
5. Protect and Continue care for our sick and Elderly

6. Prevent Exposure
7. Avoid groupings to minimize risk of transmission of virus to others
8. Abide by guidelines
9. Function Virtually and Keep our church and ministry alive
10. Serve Community alongside Harry Chaplin Food bank
11. Prepping for future "Family Fellowship homes" for "End Time" Wilderness experience
12. Keep connect between Members and non members through multiple platforms
13. Establishment of a strong Platform for live broadcasting. Expanding our bandwidth capacity

OUR SCHEDULE:

THIS SABBATH 3-21-2020

10:am Previous Sermon replay

"CRISIS and OPPORTUNITY"

11:am Current Sermon Pastor Campbell

6:pm President Machado

NEXT SABBATH 3-28-2020

10 am Sabbath School lesson

11: am. Sermon Pastor Campbell

6 : pm Secretary Tim Goff

Thank you so much for attending what we will term a ROLL out Plan for moving forward which requires each of your intense attention.

We will come back together with you in TWO WEEKS

Our Lead Elders, Pastor Andre and Myself Will Answer your Questions...