



We'd like to share some feedback with you, our CityHill Church family, on some of our thoughts as an eldership team regarding the president's announcement on Tuesday night, and our approach from here forward:

1. We are extremely grateful to God for our president, for the cabinet, and for all the decision-makers. We can only imagine how hard they are working at this time to process all that's coming at them in light of this Covid-19 crisis. We're really grateful to God for all the hard work that they're doing, and in light of scripture, we continue to pray for them that they will have all the wisdom and strength that they need.

2. In light of the announcement made on Tuesday night, we are hugely grateful for the appreciation and recognition that was given to the role of churches in society. It bodes well for all of us when churches are lifted up like that, and when a national day of prayer is called right across our country to call on God for His help for our nation.

3. With regards to our particular actions, we have prayerfully, and in long conversation, considered with the elders what our best steps are to move forward.

We are not going to be rushing into having meetings on-site any time soon and there are a few reasons for this:

- The numbers of people in our church would make it impossible to - even in multiple meetings on a weekend - get through everybody in groups of up to 50.
- A bigger reason though, is that we're concerned not only for the spiritual health but also for the physical health of everybody that is part of our church family. The threat has not yet passed in terms of the danger of the coronavirus. We want to live with a lot of faith and a lot of wisdom and without any form of fear; but at the moment, after all of these weeks of having figured out how to do church online - and even in that awkward and unusual space still being able to connect with each other - we think it's wise for the time being to continue

like that.

- We also realise that as a church, we're in a privileged position where many families have adequate access to data and so are able to connect with us via the use of technology. We want to keep using technology wisely to be able to build into people's spiritual health while not compromising their physical health.

- We view the opportunity that the government has given us to be able to have meetings for up to 50 as an "impact play off the bench" (to use a rugby analogy), and it's an opportunity for us to use in very special circumstances. We would do that deciding on a case-by-case scenario. We don't have any of those planned yet, but if any special needs came up we would be able to use this opportunity while following all the due protocols that the government has laid out for us.

4. Finally, a comment about our LifeGroups: although theologically we know that church isn't a building but that it's the people of the church meeting together (and that we could meet in church buildings or homes) we are strongly encouraging our LifeGroups not to get back together again to meet physically face-to-face. The reason for this is first of all for physical safety (we don't think it's a wise idea), and secondly, we believe that the heart of the announcement made on Tuesday wasn't that we can suddenly all start meeting in homes to share the Word of God and to fellowship together - the time for that will come in due course. This too shall pass, it's not going to last forever!

So, in closing, we're so grateful that God is not under lockdown. He's still at work, He's still changing our lives, and He's changing our nation. As we move forward, we want to do so with faith as well as with wisdom, trusting that His Kingdom will come and His will will be done.

God bless,
Steve and the eldership team.