

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

May 25, 2020

651 Pine Street, Martinez, CA 94553
ATTN: District 3 Supervisor Diane Burgis

RE: Strategies and Approaches to Reopening of Churches

Dear Supervisor Burgis; and other Members of Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Greetings to each of you,

My name is Henry A. Killings and I am the Senior Pastor of Threshing Floor Tabernacle, located in the City of Antioch. The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request to hear from Community Leaders/Pastor in regards to suggestions for reopening Churches in our County.

Since the initial order to shelter-in-place (SIP), we have conducted our Church services online in order to work together with federal, state, county, and local governments to save lives and prevent the spread of the Corona Virus, COVID-19, in our communities. Now that the SIP is being lifted in phases, we firmly believe that we can return back to assembling in our Houses of Worship and continue following the guidelines as laid out by Federal and State Government.

As Governor Newsom laid out today, May 25, 2020 (subject to County approval), we agree that reopening at 25% capacity is acceptable, however, the limit of 100 or less may be more difficult or less favorable for much larger congregations. We believe that Churches are "Essential" to the community and the key to reopening should include self-distancing of 6'; requiring masks (we will provide if congregants don't have or show up without them); sanitizing/disinfecting common areas before and after each service; restrooms and door handles wiped down after each use; families of the same household sitting together while all others are seated according to the 6' distancing requirement; ushers and greeters will be required to wear masks and gloves as well as practicing and maintaining safe distancing with the congregants.

In addition, we will continue with our live-streaming of our services for those who are high risk, sick or having symptoms of the virus, or are not capable of attending. It is our belief that Churches can return to conducting services in our facilities while at the same time practicing the safe guidelines as issued. It has been suggested that incremental stages of 50%, 75%, and 100% be implemented which also is a good suggestion (assuming there are no outbreaks of the virus in the process).

I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts and suggestions on the reopening of Churches in Contra Costa County. If you have any questions or would like more input I can be reached via email

Grace to you,

Henry A. Killings, Senior Pastor
Threshing Floor Tabernacle

Antioch, CA 94509