



March 14, 2020

Dear Highland Village Church Family,

The world is being affected by the COVID-19 virus. As you are aware, it is now impacting the United States and in particular the state of Indiana. It is with this knowledge that I am writing to address what Highland Village Church is going to do.

1. We do not live in a spirit of fear. So, I am encouraging each of you to NOT join in the overzealous hyperactivity that our media and some politically motivated voices are exercising. This is uncalled for in the life of an Apostolic follower of Jesus Christ. We are not gossips!!! We speak the truth we are assured of and let our voices join in with encouraging speech.
While I am not interested in any lives being lost through this virus, it has not reached the levels of recent other viruses that have impacted our nation that received less fanfare by the media and political forces.
2. Highland Village Church is seeking to be a witness to our community. Our community includes the church as well as the surrounding communities that our church is seeking to serve. With this thought in mind, I want our church to join in with the efforts to stop the spread of this virus. I want HVC to represent that we are more than an isolated church, but that we are good citizens in the world. This is part of our witness.
3. It appears that the danger to children and adults under the age of 60 is minimal, it is evident that those above the age of 60 are being inordinately affected by this disease. Those who have underlying physical conditions are certainly being impacted in very adverse ways.
Highland Village Church has a great group of senior saints that we love and want to assist in staying healthy. They are valuable to our church community and the community at large and thus we want to be of assistance to them in any way we can as this pandemic plays out.
4. In recent conversations with the Governor of Indiana's Office, and in meetings that I have been in over the past few days, our Governor has requested of churches that if our gatherings are larger than a particular size, he would suggest that we cancel those meetings for the short term. I have prayerfully given consideration to this request. Once again, I desire to be a good citizen and leader in stopping the spread of COVID-19.
5. It is of great concern to me that from the reports I have read it is possible for children and younger adults to carry the virus in our systems with the possibility of passing this virus to others while not showing any symptoms of the virus in our bodies. This



concerns me since it is possible that healthy appearing individuals could pass on this virus to our senior saints unknowingly and cause them a great deal of difficulty.

6. Additionally, we have a fairly large group of medical employees in our church community. They are potentially being exposed or could be exposed and thus we could lose their services to our community at this time of needing them most.

It is with all of these factors in mind and several others that I am notifying the HVC family that I am canceling all church events tomorrow. This includes church, business meeting and prayer. We will still have our small group gathering on Wednesday (3/18) evening this week.

I am aware that some of you will not be pleased with this choice. For that I am sorry for your struggle. I AM MAKING ONE REQUEST!!! As has happened in the past, some of you will seek to go to another church since we are dismissing. I have not sought to stop this in our past. Today, I AM PLEADING WITH YOU NOT TO GO TO ANOTHER CHURCH FOR THE SAKE OF THE MEMBERS OF HVC. If you go to another church you expose yourself and, finally, the HVC community to what you may contract by your attendance. I know this is strange, but please heed your Pastor's desire in this matter.

If you go to our church website (www.hvchurch.com) you can find a long list of previously preached messages that will minister to your heart on Sunday.

In lieu of my concern for our senior saints, I would like to offer to each of them the opportunity for the church staff to shop on your behalf. If you need groceries or supplies over the next two weeks, please email those needs with your name to info@hvchurch.com and we will order those items online to have them put in our vehicles and delivered to your home so that you do not have to overly expose yourself during this time.

Church, please stay in your homes and yards and enjoy your family this Sunday. Have a home Bible study and talk about the goodness of Jesus and play a few family games. That's just a thought on my part. Some family bonding time does not hurt anyone.

Finally, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE pray for our government leaders, the healthcare providers, for the United States of America, for the world and for our church that we will be spared any more deaths as a result of this virus and that it will be stopped rapidly. Our efforts in closing down church for this weekend is to do our part in stopping the spread or potential spread of this epidemic.

With Much Love,
Pastor B. Andrew King