

KYAG COVID-19 Weekly Update
Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 12:00 Noon, EST
By the Superintendent of the
Kentucky Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God

Kentucky Assemblies of God family and friends,

We continue journeying this narrative of social-distancing, isolation; for some, loneliness, seclusion, inaccessibility, or a myriad of other adjectives to describe this storyline of our history. We find solace in knowing each new day is one closer to conclusion and a return to some fashion of a new normal for those both within and without the Church.

While we read and watch neighboring states re-open in their respective phases, we realize in the Commonwealth of Kentucky the phased re-gathering and re-opening appears to be processing slower. Gov. Beshear has released certain guidelines to establish businesses, medical services and churches to follow on a phased implementation.

While our state Network office and staff team have been away from the office complex and working remotely since March 18, I have implemented a target day of Monday, May 11 as our return to regular and normal Network office schedules/hours. The offices are singular at the Network and social-distancing will not be of concern.

It is important that each of us in the KyAG Network closely monitor notices from the Governor's office and observe the proposals to ensure a systematic resumption of public worship services and church ministries in the soon weeks ahead. While we do not yet know the date targeted for this phase (in Kentucky), we do understand there will be size limitations, social distancing, masks, and other requirements to be initially implemented at that time.

The longer this pandemic challenges societal freedoms and concerns of religious liberties the more challenging will be God's leaders offering the Father's character and heart of unity for all concerned. Each of us should strive in every way possible to keep the unity of the faith for the purpose and the witness we portray. "Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her." – Proverbs 3:15

God appeared to Solomon and gave him the opportunity to ask for anything he desired. What did Solomon desire more than all else? Wisdom. Not gold or long life, or to be right on a topic of societal concern, but wisdom. Wisdom is supreme. It is great to have knowledge, but more valuable is to have the wisdom to apply it.

I encourage you to pause before post. I encourage you to consider your public witness with your social media. I encourage you to realize while you may be immovable about a subject, with every right to be so, to whom much is given much is required that we might not become harmful to the body of Christ and a point of disunity, rather than focused purpose. Use maturity, developed wisdom, and reliable responsibility in your leadership. A colleague in a nearby state wrote wisely, "remain vigilant in (our) service to the Lord and open to the

leading of His Spirit until such time as public gatherings can be held again. That day is coming, friends, so hang in there!"

NEWS FROM SPRINGFIELD, MO:

- Monday April 27th, the National office staff began returning to work in phases. Phase 1 included 25% of employees at the National Office back to work. Phase 2 will bring in about 50% on May 4, and the groundwork is prepared to be 100% by May 11. Of course, all this is contingent on any further restrictions from county or MISSOURI state government.

NEWS FROM FRANKFORT, KY:

- Gov. Beshear vetoed SB 9 (unbelievable).
- If Kentucky's COVID-19 cases begin declining, Kentucky Gov. Beshear said he is prepared to begin slowly reopening additional segments of the economy on May 11th, 18th, 25th and June 1. He said Kentuckians should begin wearing cloth masks whenever they go out in public before May 11.
- And, yes, like you, in Kentucky – I'm following the ongoing news regarding our Attorney General's statements challenging our Gov's statements about Re-Opening Churches. FRANKFORT, Ky. (WYMT) - Updated 04/28 4:27 p.m. During his news conference about the lawsuit, Attorney General Cameron spoke out on Governor Beshear's ban on mass gatherings as it pertains to religious services. OF NOTE: "I'm not here to advocate churches resume in person services immediately," Cameron said. He says he "just wants them to have the option" and to listen to health professionals. Cameron said he was considering filing a lawsuit if Governor Beshear did not allow churches the option to resume in-person services.

NEWS FROM THE KENTUCKY ASSEMBLIES OF GOD:

- Network Conference/ District Council – Planning for Tues Aug 11, 1day, immediate business only, Ordination Service
 - o Annual Network-wide Missions Project, Cont Theo Seminary, Brussels Belgium
- Target: RE-OPEN KMN Office to regular office hours/schedules: MON MAY 11.
- Preliminary Updated KYAG Camp Schedules are available. Contact DYD, Rodney Goodlett (rgoodlett@kyag.org)
- The weekly Supt's Zoom on Thursday's at 4pm EDT will continue until further notice post COVID 19. I'll generally have a Weekly Guest, Pastor/Missionary Guests, and/or a weekly Topic we'll address.
- KYAG Pastors, in conjunction with the National Assemblies of God, we are offering this resource to allow and assist any size church in our Network the opportunity of re-focusing, re-adjusting, re-assessing, re-aligning, and ultimately re-turning post-COVID 19 with a re-launched paradigm for gospel impact, church momentum, and kingdom growth. Click on the link below to view the Church Relaunch Resource materials. Familiarize yourself with the components. KYAG will be hosting online Zoom meetings (once or twice a week) for pastors

interested in joining a four to eight-week journey (length to be determined) of RELAUNCH & REVITALIZATION. If you're interested email: rhenslee@kyag.org. And, by the way, it's complimentary; no charge to you.

- Other amazing resources are found at: www.covid19.ag.org. I encourage you to look into these invaluable helps.

- Remember, when churches return to worship in their sanctuary they won't rush back to normal. There will be extra efforts to sanitize, promote hand washing, and encourage the six-foot social distance between attendees. You will find systems and approaches already posted for your convenience to follow as guidelines on our Kentucky A.G. Ministers and Leaders Facebook page. Further, I again want to share with you these resources I emailed our fellowship last week for assistance in planning your church re-open strategies.

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/reopening-church>

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/.../reopening-the-church-after-...>

<https://kenbraddy.com/2020/04/18/20>

https://www.rmdc.org/20200420_Phasing_New_Normal.pdf

- “Pastors are often referred to as shepherds of their flock. This may be a good time for church leaders to think carefully about the welfare of their sheep.” (Ryan Burge, Prof. at Eastern Illinois Univ.)

- And, as of this writing: the Northpoint Bible College and Graduate School (Haverhill, MA) Masters Degree Cohort at the Northpoint-Crestwood KY Campus – Classes Scheduled for the 1st week of JUNE are presently scheduled as “ON” and planning to meet.

Sincerely,

Pastor Joe

Joseph S. Girdler, DMin

Superintendent – Network Pastor

Assemblies of God – Kentucky