



Good evening, pastors!

I apologize for sending you two emails in one day, but I need to update you regarding a couple of pressing items.

As you probably have already heard, this afternoon, **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued a state-wide "stay at home" order.** For many of our congregations, this order was already in place at the county level, but other **pastors have been asking me what this means for them.** Rather than wait until tomorrow to send an email to cover this question, I thought it best to send it out this evening.

First, I'd remind you that we are committed to following not only our state directives, but also federal and local guidelines throughout this crisis. None of that has changed.

Since we were already under a Federal order not to gather in groups of more than 10, most of our churches had already moved their worship services and discipleship groups online through Facebook, Church Online, LiveStream, YouTube, Zoom or other platforms. Because the Governor's order has provided an allowance for religious services, as long as you keep your groups small and practice social distancing, you can still arrange for your church services to be broadcast, as long as your group is not larger than 10 people.

It should be noted though, that while religious services are listed among the activities allowed under the Governor's order, **the Federal limitation on no groups larger than 10 is still to be followed.**

One other question that has come up is "drive-in services". If your church has been planning on doing drive-in or drive-up services, as we've already discussed if you were a part of Monday's Zoom call, **you should vet it with local health officials before you hold any drive-in or drive-up services.**

As our SDMI Director, Ashok Dhanarajan said to me earlier today, "We sure are learning how to canoe the mountains."

All the Best!

Dale

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