

The Greater Zion Missionary
Baptist Church

COVID-19 Procedures &

Policy Statement

Procedures and Policy Statement Waiver of Liability
and Assumption of Risk Related to Coronavirus
COVID-19 Pandemic

**Important Please Read
This Entire Document.**

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to outline The Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church policies and procedures which must be followed during this pandemic. The specific actions contained herein are in accordance with the mandates and/or recommendations by federal and state government officials.

The Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church
212 N. Progress Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Phone: (717) 541-0388
Rev. Dr. Charles R. Meile, Jr., Pastor

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Phone: (717) 541-0388**

Title: Procedures and Policy Statement Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk Related to Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic

Background: On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, a pandemic. On March 16, 2020 Governor Wolf's office published an official list of Industry Groups which 'May Continue Physical Operations'. Religious Organizations were determined to be Life-Sustaining and were authorized to continue physical operations. Currently the United States has suffered over 490,000 deaths from COVID-19. In Pennsylvania, currently we have over 905,000 cases of the coronavirus and have suffered over 24,000 deaths due to COVID-19.

The doors of The Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Charles R. Meile, Jr. remained open while offering Sunday Worship Services on our parking lot, on-line via Facebook, YouTube, and also on-site in our sanctuary while practicing social-distancing (seated at least six feet apart) and wearing masks to minimize the potential spread of the coronavirus.

Purpose: The purpose of this **revised/updated** document is to outline The Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church policies and procedures which must be followed during this pandemic. The specific actions contained herein are in accordance with the mandates and/or recommendations by federal and state government officials. We recently installed a state-of-the-art Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation System throughout the ductwork in our church. This system adds an additional level of protection against airborne viruses.

Applicability and Scope: The contents of this policy (and procedures) are applicable to all members of Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, your families, friends and any visitors who choose to worship within the church building or attend any functions on the property of Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

If you elect to attend services at the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, you agree to being videotaped, recorded (photographed or video), for any policy and procedure records we must retain as required by the laws of Pennsylvania issued by Governor Thomas Wolf. Video recordings shall include, but not be limited to areas that include the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Gymnasium, front hall lobby, and parking lot.

Waiver of Liability: If you elect to attend and/or participate in classes, worship services, and/or any events at the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, this **“Statement of Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk Related to Coronavirus/COVID-19 applies. Coronavirus is highly contagious and is known to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. By attending the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, you agree to abide by the procedures established by the church to protect attendees and staff, and you voluntarily assume the risk that you and/or your family may be exposed to or infected by coronavirus/COVID-19 either at the church, in the church worship service, or in the nursery or Sunday school. You agree to assume all the risks of attendance and participation for you and your family, and you waive any liability against the church and any other parties.”**

Effective date: The policy, detailed precautions and procedures herein are effective as of March 1, 2021. My point of contact is Sister Bonnie L. Pyett, Administrative Director for Pastor, phone (717) 541-0388 ext. 123.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles R. Meile, Jr." in a cursive script.

**Rev. Dr. Charles R. Meile, Jr.
Pastor**

Congregants, Visitors & Attendees:

Social Distancing and Mask:

1. Due to the potential spread of the coronavirus all congregants, including staff, visitors and attendees shall work to maintain **physical separation of at least six feet** and avoid all physical contact, including shaking hands. No more than three people shall sit on every other pew. The only exception is if a family is from the same household.
2. All congregants shall **wear masks** to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Mask should be worn when entering and exiting the building. If you do not have a mask one will be made available to you.

When Entering and Exiting:

- ***Entering:*** When congregants enter the sanctuary, sanitizer your hands, **ushers will escort you to your seats to ensure that we fill first rows located at the front of the sanctuary.** This is to protect you and them to avoid other congregants from walking past you. Note: **Please be obedient and cooperative with the ushers and others who may be in charge. We offer voluntary temperature taking when entering the church. Our thermometers are “non-contact” and provide another layer of compliance with symptom identification and accurate information to reduce the possible exposure to and/or spread of the coronavirus.**
- ***Exiting:*** When exiting the sanctuary, congregants shall put their mask back on before exiting. Congregants seated on the back rows will exit first to avoid passing other congregants. Congregants will proceed directly to the exits, **without gathering in the foyer,** in order to protect themselves and to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. ***See Entering and Exiting Worship Service on page 7 for additional details.***

Anyone with symptoms:

3. Anyone who has/or has experienced a **fever 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit** or higher currently or in the past week/7 days) shall stay home.
4. All congregants shall leave the worship services if they display or experience **cold-like symptoms**, included but not limited to coughing, excessive sneezing, fever, or cold chills.

Restrooms & Handwashing

5. All congregants shall follow the directions posted at the two main restrooms in the front lobby. Restroom entrance doors are propped opened to avoid touching. (Only two people in the restroom at a time)
6. All congregants shall **wash their hands** regularly/as required and avoid all physical contact with other persons within the church or on the parking lot.
7. All congregants shall use the **hand sanitizer** available at stations located in the main front lobby of the building.

Communion & Baptism

8. All congregants who wish to participate in our Communion Service on first Sundays will receive pre-packaged Communion Elements after you park in the lot/sanctuary. Our Deacon Ministry members will present you with your pre-packaged/sealed Communion elements, in a sealed plastic bag. After Communion is served, we ask that you place the empty element packages back in the plastic baggie and dispose of the baggie in the receptacles as you exit the building.
9. New members who request Baptism, will be contacted to discuss the precautions we have in place for Baptism. All requests for Baptism must be approved by Rev. Dr. Charles R. Meile, Jr. Pastor. We will continue to follow the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Wednesday In The Word

10. Our Wednesday in The Word classes will be held in the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall or other location. All attendees will be seated at least six feet apart and shall wear a mask when they enter and when they exit the classes. If you do not have a mask you will not be able to attend. However, you will be able to Zoom in from home. Register online at www.greaterzionbaptist.org.

Church Nursery

11. All **children** (not in the care of their parents) shall have their **temperature checked** prior to admission to nursery or any children's programs. If the child has a fever of 98.6 Fahrenheit or higher, the child shall not enter the nursery. **Note: Our Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church nursery is closed until further notice. When we reopen the nursery, a signed waiver will be required.**

Transportation Ministry

12. Due to the potential spread of the coronavirus, the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church transportation van will not be picking up anyone at this time.

Travel

13. All congregants who have **traveled outside of the United States** recently (within the past 14 days), shall remain home from services for at least 14 days from the date they returned home.

Weddings and Funerals

14. All congregants who have a scheduled wedding must adhere to this policy.

15. All congregants who attend or participate in a funeral service at our church must adhere to this policy.

Precautions and Procedures

Precautions: In order to minimize the potential spread of the coronavirus, all attendees/participants at the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church shall comply with the following precautions and procedures.

Physical building/facility:

1. Custodial staff shall perform regular **cleaning** of the church facilities, ensuring that the required disinfectant is being used in all critical areas.

2. Custodial staff shall ensure that **hand sanitizer stations** are well stocked and placed at specific locations (main entrance doors, main front bathrooms) within the church for easy access by all congregants.

3. All staff shall wear **masks** to avoid the spread of the coronavirus unless they are performing worship experience duties (e.g., singing). When performing those duties, they must remain at least six feet apart.

4. The church staff shall make **masks** available to anyone who is not wearing a mask when entering the church building. Mask should be worn when entering and leaving the building. If congregants do not have a mask, one will be provided for them.

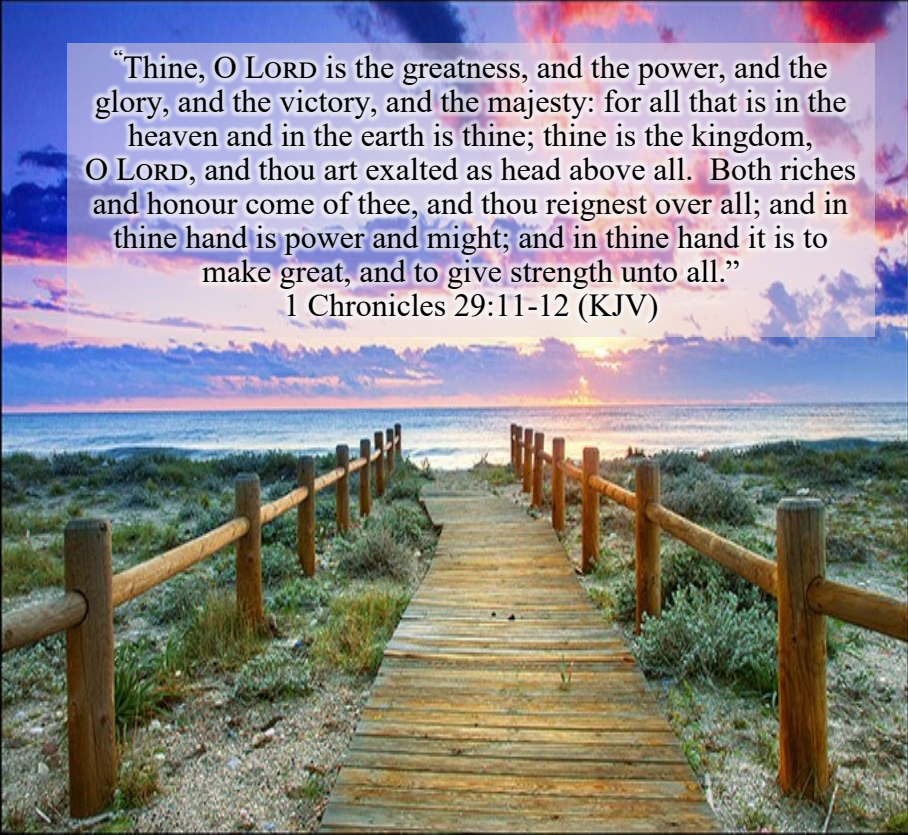
Physical building/facility (continued):

5. The church staff shall maintain a **supply of masks and** non-contact thermometers to ensure availability when needed/requested.
6. On Sunday mornings, the church staff or authorized representatives, Deacons or Trustees, shall ensure that the congregants are seated at least **six-feet apart** in the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and/or gymnasium.
7. Main entrance to church and to sanctuary shall be propped open to avoid any unnecessary contact with door handles.

Entering and Exiting Worship Service

8. Congregants shall only enter the building through the front main entrance doors which will be propped open to avoid physical contact with the door handles. The side doors, main hallway, surrounding hallways, and classrooms are closed to congregants.
 - Periodically, congregants, entering the building, may be asked to have their temperature taken. If your temperature is 98.6 degrees or higher, it is requested that you exit the church immediately. You can view the service on-line via YouTube or while sitting in your car.
 - At the end of the worship service, all congregants should put their masks back on for safety, and practice social distancing of at least six feet apart.
 - Congregants seated in the “sanctuary” will be asked to exit the church using the main entrance/exit doors.
 - Congregants seated in the “Fellowship Hall” will be asked to exit thru the far-right doors (near the bookstore).
 - Congregants seated in the “gymnasium” will be asked to exit the gym using the far-left doors that exit into the church parking lot.

This exit plan will ensure the maximum social distancing of at least six feet and avoid any crowds in the lobby. All congregants should expeditiously continue to their cars and exit the parking lot without gathering.



“Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.”

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 (KJV)

“God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.”

2 Samuel 22:33 (KJV)