

Guidance for Our Faith-Based Community

The City of Greenville has prepared this guide to assist our faith-based community during the period of the state of emergency, which has been declared and currently exists for the State of North Carolina and the City of Greenville as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Thank you for your cooperation.

Public Gatherings—Indoor Church/Religious Services

The current Governor's Executive Order (*Executive Order No. 121; issued on March 27, 2020*) prohibits more than 10 persons at an indoor gathering, which specifically applies to religious entities and services.

- Question: Does the pastor or worship group in the same room as others count towards the 10?
Answer: Yes
- Question: Can I have a gathering of up to 10 people (engaging in proper *Social Distancing Requirements*) in a single room or single space such as a large meeting room or sanctuary and still have 2 to 3 staff members in a separate part of the building or office?
Answer: Yes, so long as the extra staff members remain in a separate part of the building. This is not meant to be interpreted to have up to 10 persons in every room of the church. It is only meant to provide some flexibility for additional staff to be engaging in *Minimum Basic Operations* of the church such as cleaning or performing office work in a separate location in the building (the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of inventory, preserve the condition of the church's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or related functions).

Funeral Services

In an effort to promote human dignity and limit suffering, funerals are permitted to include up to 50 persons (while each of those persons are observing *Social Distancing Requirements* to the extent practicable), regardless of whether the funeral service is an indoor or outdoor gathering.

Public Gatherings—Outdoor Church/Religious Services—"Drive-In" Services

The current Governor's Executive Order (*Executive Order No. 121; issued on March 27, 2020*) prohibits more than 10 persons at an outdoor gathering, however, according to the Governor's March 31, 2020 directed to North Carolina law enforcement, "*These kinds of gatherings appear to be acceptable as long as individuals remain in their vehicles and avoid contact.*"

- Therefore, drive-in style worship services will be permitted in the City under the following guidelines:
 1. All participants must remain in their vehicles at all times.
 2. No tailgating.
 3. No use of the facility or building.
 4. Must keep windows closed if vehicles are parked next to each other.
 5. May have windows open only if vehicles are separated by at least one unoccupied parking space.
 6. Collection methods must adhere to proper *Social Distancing Requirements*. For example, a collection plate, basket, or other container may be placed at a stationary location, but individuals must adhere to proper *Social Distancing Requirements* during the collections process.
 7. Communion and other parts of the worship service or activity must adhere to proper *Social Distancing Requirements* (for example: self-contained units or individual packaging).