



**RESTORATION PRAISE CENTER SDA CHURCH  
COVID19 TASK FORCE REPORT**

**May - June Update**

**June 18, 2020**

## **RPC COVID-19 Task Force Report**

### **Background:**

March 2020: With the high incidence of community spread of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) throughout the state of Maryland, and with Prince George's (PG) county identified as a hotspot for sustained transmission, state and local health officials instituted shelter at home restrictions. These restrictions limit face to face gatherings, which includes religious gatherings. The restrictions were deemed necessary to curtail the spread of the virus and thus, Restoration Praise Center SDA church (RPC) prudently transitioned to online worship services.

May 2020: As more information became available regarding the stabilization of COVID-19 cases and the strengthening of diagnostic and contact tracing capabilities, the state and local health officials began to formulate a tiered plan to slowly lift the shelter at home restrictions.

In consideration of the ever evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the RPC pastoral and leadership teams recommended a committee (task force) of experts to deliberate RPC's response to COVID-19 and to prepare the church for the eventual safe transition to face to face worship using data and best public health safety practices. This task force was implemented May 17, 2020.

### **Purpose of the Task Force:**

The Restoration Praise Center COVID-19 reopening committee convened to advise the pastoral and leadership teams in preparation for the safe reopening of the church. These preparations include, but are not limited to:

1. Reviewing the current federal, state and local health guidelines to develop plans and procedures to guide safe reopening activities.
2. Implement timely public health safeguards to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission as the church prepares to reopen.
3. Communicate and disseminate information to the membership on the progress of the reopening plan.

### **COVID-19 Reopening Task Force Members:**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Role</b>
Anikah Salim	Health Scientist/ Epidemiologist ( Co-Chair)
LaToya Forrester	Infection Preventionist/ Epidemiologist ( Co-chair)
Pastor Kelvin Mitchell	Pastoral Liaison
Kenya Francis	Legal
Landi James	Family Life
Demetrious Sykes	Security
Hebron Watson	Hospitality/ Facility Management
Michael Dortch	Risk Management
Melinda Chapman	Treasury/ Finance

**Committee Activities as of May 2020:**

- Weekly meetings
- Established a reopening timeline using the most recent public health guidance and recommendations.
- Developed a membership survey
- Developed a COVID-19 webpage

**PHASES OF REOPENING**

Phases	Activities
Phase One: May 2020- present Purpose: Building of infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a COVID-19 page on the RPC website as a central repository for critical updates</li> <li>2. Conduct a survey of the membership to receive information regarding the physical, mental and emotional health and solicit information on their thoughts on reopening.</li> <li>3. Pastoral team provide status update on activities to membership</li> <li>4. Establishing at least a 3 month inventory of critical supplies               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gloves</li> <li>- Hand Sanitizer</li> <li>- Masks</li> <li>- Paper towels</li> <li>- Soap</li> <li>- Disinfectants</li> <li>- Thermometers</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Building Prep               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HVAC system</li> <li>- Cleaning and Disinfection of building</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Maintaining virtual services while planning for in-person services</li> <li>7. Coordinate with local officials to verify permits needed</li> </ol>

Phases	Activities
<p>Phase Two: Tentatively August 2020</p> <p>Purpose: Safely resume a modified face to face engagement to facilitate emotional and spiritual cooperative connection.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm that infrastructure set in place in Phase 1 is stable</li> <li>2. Planning once per month drive-up services</li> <li>3. Maintaining virtual services</li> <li>4. Use the results of the survey and best public health practices to draft RPC Reopening protocol and procedures.</li> <li>5. Continue to monitor federal, state and local trends to direct next steps in re-entry into the physical church infrastructure</li> </ol>
<p>Phase Three: TBD</p> <p>Purpose: to safely transition into the physical infrastructure</p>	<p>TBD</p>

### **Interim Usage of Facility**

Should internal usage of RPC be necessary for any reason, (outside of the current operations of Pastoral Staff functioning, and Caterpillar Clubhouse) the RPC COVID-19 Task Force Committee is requesting a courtesy notification so that access can be afforded with the best safety practice protocols in place. Such communication would be necessary to determine the scheduling needs and levels of sanitization. The intent of this courtesy request is not to place any restrictions on the Pastoral Staff, but rather to put a safety net in place to ensure the minimization of any possible COVID-19 spread.

### **Next Steps:**

- The task force will communicate the results of the survey to the pastoral team, leadership team and the church body at large.
- Pastoral leadership will provide support to members who indicated in the survey that they might be struggling emotionally, financially, physically and spiritually.
- The task force will flesh out the details of the drive-up service and engage with required ministry leads to streamline this process
- The task force and RPC leadership will continue monitoring national and local COVID-19 infection trends to guide decision making.
- The task force will build on the information found in Phase I and Phase II to safely guide the progression of returning into the physical infrastructure.