

First African Missionary Baptist Church Stratification Plan Phase One Re-Opening of the Sanctuary (Covid-19)

Dear Member(s),

We desire to re-open our facility as we are assured that the well-being of the community is served. In conjunction with the guidelines required by the CDC, we will institute a phase approach for opening our in-person services. We ask that you review these recommended protocols. As you consider them, we ask that you add any other thoughts that might be important to you. The Officers will review and determine the final list of temporary protocols for our initial return to in-facility services.

Temporary Protocols for Opening:

- ❖ The facilities have been professionally cleaned and sanitized during your absence, and we will continue to do so on a more frequent basis. Please follow all CDC guidelines for public safety and social distancing, including the use of hand sanitizer which we will have available.
- ❖ If you are sneezing, coughing, not feeling well, or have been exposed to anyone who has been sick, or have a compromised immune system and are considered “at risk,” please stay home and attend our online church service.
- ❖ When you arrive at the church, you are asked to maintain a six-foot distance from anyone who is not from your household. We ask that you refrain from hugs, handshakes and holding hands. We encourage waving and bumping elbows which should take the place of hand shaking for the foreseeable future.
- ❖ Hospitality (food, snacks, coffee, tea, potlucks, etc....) has been suspended and will resume when it is considered in the best interest of the well-being of all. Likewise, no eating should go on in the building and our water fountains have been temporarily disabled. Anyone needing water should ask for bottled water.
- ❖ No more than one person will be allowed to use the restrooms at a time, and it will be cleaned after every use. Please wash hands before leaving the restrooms.
- ❖ The offering baskets will be strategically placed for those who wish to give checks or cash. Trustees should wear gloves while handling all forms of currency.
- ❖ We will not hold hands during the Prayer and Benediction; rather, we will lift our hands in praise and gratitude for the glory of God.

- ❖ We will conduct our Communion Services in our usual manner without the passing of the Communion Trays from hand to hand, each member will be served individual by one deacon wearing gloves and mask.
- ❖ We will remain in or at our seats for prayer, and if someone wishes to join the Church, needs intercession, or otherwise needs to be counseled they should raise their hand until recognized by the pastor.
- ❖ Please allow and maintain a comfortable distance of six feet between yourself, staff, minister, and other congregants, as you exit the sanctuary.
- ❖ Fellowship and conversation may continue in the parking lot, but at a social distance.
- ❖ The pews and chairs will be marked at six-foot intervals---please, do not alter them.
- ❖ Upon entering everyone not having a mask will be given one and it will be required to be worn during the entire service. Everyone's temperature will be taken with an infrared forehead thermometer and everyone will use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. We ask that you sit where the ushers ask you to sit.
- ❖ During phase one, the use of pew Bibles and hymnals will not be available and Tithing envelopes, Building Fund envelopes have been sanitized for your use.
- ❖ The Choir will not be utilized in phase one. Weddings, funerals, and special events inside the sanctuary will not be performed without special permission and coordination through the pastor and officers until further notice.
- ❖ The Youth Ministry is suspended until further notice.
- ❖ If you or any member of your family is dealing with illness, death or distress of any magnitude, please contact your ward deacon, chairman of the deacon board, church clerk, and lastly Pastor Dawson. (Protocol)
- ❖ Outside drive up services will be in order if the conditions of the weather are favorable. All members will be asked to remain in their vehicle during the entire services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Althea Brown, Hazmat & Safety Coordinator
Dec. Joseph Wynn
Dec. Lewis Lowder, Asst. Chairman of Deacon Board
Dec. Jeffrey West, Chairman of Deacon Board
Betty Frasier, Clerk
Dr. Neil Dawson, Pastor