



# New Apostolic Church USA

NAC USA Opening Congregations Message – July 2, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

This information is for the domestic USA district congregations only.

Over the past weeks, the USA Apostles and I have concerned ourselves as to when our USA congregations can begin to open once again. Because the various regions of the nation experience different effects and intensities of the pandemic, we believe that, under strict guidelines, some of our congregations could open, starting on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

For a congregation to open, it must implement very specific health and safety directives as outlined in our revised NAC USA Temporary Pandemic Protocol which can be found at the [“Welcome Home”](#) page of our website. In addition, any local regulations that are *more restrictive* must be followed. Mandatory rules in all of our congregations will include, but not be limited to, the wearing of face masks, social distancing, no choir or congregational singing, and church capacity restrictions.

We have posted Building Reoccupation Guidelines to prepare our church buildings for opening. Downloadable placards for the church building, as well as an explanation video and handout of the temporary protocol for our members are now available.

I want to be clear; this is a “permission” not an “order.” The decision to reopen the congregation needs to be determined by the rector and the local ministers, in consultation with the district rector and apostle. When deciding, various conditions, including building size, congregation size, vulnerability, and comfortability of the members, need to be considered. Also important is the ability to have a divine service *experience*, as much as possible. Because all these factors are critical, some congregations may not be re-opening in July, but at a later date.

Naturally, attendance in the opened congregations is completely dependent on the personal situations of each member. No one should feel pressured to attend, nor guilty for opting to stay at home. Each has the freedom to choose their way, with joy and without judgment or embarrassment. Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms should remain at home for your benefit as well as for the safety of the others. To mitigate risk, unfortunately, at this time, we will be unable to serve Holy Communion outside of the in-person divine service setting.

We will continue to provide national webcast services for those congregations who are unable to open or for those members who feel safer staying at home during this time. These can be accessed at [www.nac-usa.org/sunday](http://www.nac-usa.org/sunday) and on our NAC USA YouTube channel.

On July 5, we will have a live nationally webcast divine service for the departed, originating from Erie. This service will follow the format of a word service, without Holy Communion or the sacraments. Thus, the departed souls joined with us in this service will be referred to the altar where the sacraments will be dispensed by the Chief Apostle and other District Apostles and Helpers.



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Dear ones, if you are able to attend, please only attend *your* open congregation, so as not to create a non-compliant attendance in another congregation. **Be mindful: following the established protocols and requirements is a visible sign of love to your neighbor and care for their wellbeing.**

If you are not able to attend at this time, either because the conditions are not ready in your local region or due to an illness, vulnerability, or personal choice, please be assured; the almighty God, our Father, is with you and knows your heart. Remain connected through your thoughts, prayers, and the communication channels provided. And to those who can attend, let us remember the many at home or in various locations who look out of their windows towards this place...

Be assured that I join with you in prayer to thank God for His providence thus far and to plead for His strength and peace as we journey onward. Let us especially remember our brothers and sisters in our linked international districts, as the pandemic is raging more intensively in some of their countries than it is here.

God be with you...in His love,

LRK