

Beloved members of the Church of God in Christ:

We are living in a challenging time. The Covid 19 outbreak is a fluid situation that is currently changing on an hourly basis.

Yesterday I convened a conference call of the elected heads of various aspects of our Church to discuss the implications of the outbreak which has reached pandemic proportions. Along with other critical information, we considered the fact that mayors and governors throughout the nation have ordered limitations on public gatherings.

At the threshold of the critically important April Call Meeting in which important decisions are made, the health and well-being of our members is the most important consideration. **Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the constituency of the Church of God in Christ, it is the wisdom and counsel of those leaders, including the Chairman of the General Assembly, to delay the April Call Meeting until a suitable future date.** Our goal is not to place at risk attendees to the April Call Meeting which would potentially have the added adverse impact of exposing the many who will come into contact with delegates once they return home.

As more information emerges, we will consider other events on our calendar and make the appropriate decision. Please continue to pray for the Church, for the nation and for the world.

The ministries of the Church of God in Christ are vital, perhaps more than ever during these perilous times. It is most imperative that we unite our efforts to maintain our ministries by ensuring undisrupted financial support. To that end, credential reports are crucial.

In the vibrant spirit of our unshakable heritage, we are appealing to all credential holders to stand together to ensure the uninterrupted submission of all national assessments. We are asking that, beginning Monday, March 26, 2020, you submit all national assessments

(male and female), credential reports to the Office of the Financial Secretary in one of two methods:

- 1. Electronically, via ARC, or
- 2. Send your prepared F1 and F2 Forms and payments to:

The Office of the Financial Secretary Church of God in Christ–New York Office 312 Grand Avenue Freeport, NY 11520

The Office of the Financial Secretary is prepared to begin receiving your forms and assessments immediately, for which I offer my grateful appreciation. In advance, I commend your gracious cooperation and sensitivity under the current circumstances, manifested by your cumulative ministry of support, loyalty and compliance.

Upon receipt of your forms, both an electronic receipt and hard copy will be issued along with a regularly updated summary detailed by Jurisdiction, circulated throughout the brotherhood. Please be advised that in order to both avoid delays and ensure the timely processing of your credentials (ID Cards) by the Office of the General Secretary, it is essential that your reports be receipted by the Office of the Financial Secretary **before April 24, 2020**.

On a final note, the Church of God in Christ has historically fasted on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is prescient that the Lord led me to set as the theme for 2020 "God's People Called to Holy Living". In this time of almost unparalleled challenge, I am calling the Church back to faithful fasting and praying that the Lord would heal the land.

Serving God and His people:

Chel E BER.

Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. Presiding Bishop & Chief Apostle Church of God in Christ, Inc. *Seventh in Succession*