



“ All One In Christ ”

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> PASTORAL LETTER ON COVID-19

17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

#### TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA

Dear brothers and Sisters in The Lord,

We bring Christian greetings from your Synod headquarters.

Following the escalated cases of Covid-19 which has resulted in the Government of the Republic of Zambia implementing heightened and stringent measures to curtail the spread of this deadly pandemic, The United Church of Zambia convened a consultative meeting with the Presbytery Bishops and Heads of departments last evening on **16<sup>th</sup> June, 2021** to respond to this emergency.

The leaders of this great Church agreed that to continue with our mission of witnessing for Christ but, at the same time live as people who understand the time and season in which we are at present. There is every need for all to appreciate reality of Covid-19 and its devastating effects, including taking the lives of many people the world over of which Zambia is not an exception.

Therefore, there is need for us to play our part in contributing to the fight against the pandemic. From the information that various stakeholders are sharing, the super spreaders of covid-19 are large gatherings, and this is the reason the government has made specific mention of religious organizations and proposed measures to regulate the frequency of meetings and duration.

To this effect, your Church leaders resolved that the following measures be implement with effect from **17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021** and will be reviewed after 21 days:

1. **Sunday worship services-** The Sunday services will continue, but should last for not more than 1 hour
2. There should be strict adherence to the SIs with regard to the restrictions on the numbers to be in attendance. Ensure that you obtain clearance from designated government institutions
3. Church leaders should ensure that hand washing facilities are provided and the sitting arrangements should be regulated by maintaining social distancing in all services.
4. Section Bible studies and meetings are suspended forthwith during this period,
5. **Fellowship Group meetings-** The Fellowship Groups such as Women Christian Fellowship (WCF), Men's Christian Fellowship (MCF), Singing Groups, Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade are suspended

6. Sunday school children should not be brought to church until further notice.
7. **Funerals-** The funeral services will be conducted at the burial sites and not in Church buildings, with strict adherence to guidance prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Zambia.
8. **Weddings-** Weddings will be restricted to family members and only those who have roles to play,
9. **Training Workshops-** Workshops, conferences and others meetings are suspended forthwith.
10. **Holy Communion and Baptism-** Holy Communion and Baptism during these 21 days should not be administered until further notice.

Fellow believers, as we live in this era, we must be cautious and avoid all the activities that can pre-expose us to contracting the disease. We are further reminded to strictly observe the 5 golden rules being : Wearing face masks all the time when we are in public places; maintaining physical distance and avoiding shaking hands; washing hands frequently or use hand sanitizer; avoid crowded places by staying at home; and seeking medical attention early if we experience symptoms of Covid-19. As shining examples we are therefore expected to lead by example and continue praying for the front-line health workers who have committed themselves in saving the lives of the Zambian people under difficult circumstances.

Finally, allow me to thank you most sincerely for the work that you are doing in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. You are not making these sacrifices for the first time, you did so exemplary well when this country was first hit by this pandemic, and it is our belief that even now you will rise to the occasion. Please your health is of primary importance.

May God richly bless you and your families.

*Signed*

**REV. CHIPASHA MUSABA**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA**

**GENERAL SECRETARY**