



JAMAICA METHODIST DISTRICT

From the President's Desk.....

To District Ministerial Staff and Circuit Local Preachers
From Bishop the Revd. Christine Gooden-Benguiche
President Jamaica Methodist District
Subject Resumption of Sunday Worship Activities
Date May 15, 2020

Following a meeting of the clergy on Thursday May 14, 2020 we have decided to use Sunday June 3, 2020 as the official start of physical gatherings for worship and meetings in our Churches out of an abundance of caution and to allow sufficient time for preparations.

I am aware there are congregations that have been meeting during the pandemic and that some others have subsequently resumed. I would suggest, please, that you proceed with caution. Where feasible, we will maintain the current practice of *online worship*, which has been a blessing during these "stay at home" days.

Overall, let us not be hasty in making decisions. Instead, let us undertake proper planning and ensure that we are definitely in a position to implement Government guidelines.

Larger congregations may not be ready as quickly as the smaller ones. However, we are not in the business of competing. We are doing what is in the interests of general health and safety. For example, let us have a firm idea about how we will determine who are allowed to worship, and whether there are sufficient under 65's available to perform the duties that will be required.

Now more than ever we need to exercise caution. We are not yet through the woods. No one, including the medical team, has fully grasped the implications for this pandemic. However, if we move forward in faith, trusting in the Holy Spirit's guidance, all will be well.

A statement on the practice of the sacrament was already sent to you as prepared by the Connexional President, Bishop Everaldo Galbraith and a copy is attached here for easy reference.

We are asking that all congregations obtain the requisite temperature instruments and establish the requisite sanitization protocols between now and June 3 and that appropriate training be given to all concerned in this process.

I have identified a source of thermometers and these are available at a cost of \$8,000.00. I have already ordered 30 as some congregations had already acquired their own. Please indicate if you would like me to order for you, if you have not already done so.

A document prepared by a sister denomination of the Jamaica Council of Churches, JCC, is attached which we believe you might find useful in guiding your approach; however, this will need tweaking for your particular congregation.

Every blessing be upon you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine Gooden Benguche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Gooden Benguche
President