



## TO THE GRACE BIBLE FAMILY FROM YOUR ELDERS,

If you are like us, you have been feeling unsettled in your emotions due to the constant, quick, and seemingly conflicting guidance and orders regarding COVID-19. In our day and age we get information so quickly from so many people with differing opinions. How do you know who you should trust and what information is accurate?

*“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” Isaiah 12:2*

Remember, God is our salvation and our strength. While we may trust our leaders we surely TRUST the Lord our God.

Just as we see conflicting information coming from various levels of leadership we also have conflicting ideas within the church and GBC specifically regarding restarting our large group worship services. Jesus prayed that his disciples would have unity ([John 17:20-26](#)) and unity is a by-product of shared vision. Our call to follow Jesus and make disciples will never change or waver. We are a united people in Christ. The world seeks to divide, Jesus unites.

The elders and staff are committed more than ever to keep unity. We are constantly gathering information, evaluating the requirements, balancing desires, and formulating plans for regathering together. It has been a bit frustrating due to the constant and quick changes to the requirements being imposed upon us. But we trust that God’s eternal purposes will be fulfilled and our privilege is to participate in His work, which are not contained to the walls of the GBC campus.

We don’t know when we will resume our Sunday morning worship services. We do know that some of our congregation want to ignore government orders and begin meeting right away. We do not see the governor’s orders as an attempt at persecuting the church as other organizations and businesses are under the same restrictions that we are. Now is not a time to run rogue, to push ourselves to the front of the line but to lead with love and say to our community that we love them and are in this with them.

In moments of conflict with our government the Scriptures are clear. We are to submit to governing authorities because they have been put there by God ([Romans 13:1-2](#)). Is there a time when the government goes too far? Yes. In [Acts 5:29](#) Peter is not willing to cease in his proclamation of the gospel. We are making a broader proclamation of our gospel passion now more than ever, and in this we rejoice!

We will continue to produce online services and participate in corporate worship virtually. We will continue to care for one another and we will continue to serve our community. Even though

[gathering online](#) is not our desired method, it has been a fruitful way to participate and continue to receive outstanding teaching and encouragement from Jason, various pastors, and even members of our congregation. If you haven't watched a service I encourage you to watch, worship, and participate with us.

As we progress through these unprecedented times we are also required in our [by-laws](#) to hold a congregational meeting in the spring - which we usually hold in June - in order to hold a vote on our annual budget. We will also be presenting to the membership a vote to modify our Statement of Faith to keep us aligned with the national [EFCA Statement of Faith](#). More information regarding the budget and Statement of Faith will be available in the next few weeks on our [website](#).

We are evaluating how we may hold this meeting in a different way but still in accordance with our by-laws. It is possible that we will be able to hold the meeting in person (if conditions continue in a favorable direction) but we are also making plans for an online meeting/vote. We will provide more information in the future on how the meeting will be held.

That was a lot of information but let us leave you with a request that you would be involved in the life of GBC by:

- Praying for the Lord's guidance and wisdom around the Mission of GBC and budget
- Reviewing the [proposed budget](#) and Statement of Faith change
- Encouraging each other and our staff (they have worked constantly and faithfully)
- Finding ways to serve your neighbors and the community

As always the elders welcome feedback, questions, comments, which you can give us by email at [elders@gracebibleag.com](mailto:elders@gracebibleag.com), and we look forward to gathering with all of you in the future.

**TOGETHER IN CHRIST,**

Matt Tencati (Chair) and your Elder Team