

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Huntington Beach California North Stake

Date: 12 February 2021

To: All Stake Members

Subject: Return to In-person Church Services and Virtual Stake Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As a stake presidency, and in coordination with direction received from the First Presidency and our North America West Area Presidency, we desire that all members of our stake have the opportunity to gather together in person to worship, receive instruction, and partake of the Lord's Supper. With this in mind, we are authorizing the bishops/branch president to hold regular, 1st hour meetings including the administration of the sacrament for all members who wish to attend beginning February 14, 2021. Please see the attached meeting guidelines.

Bishops/Branch President have also been asked to coordinate and council with their ward leadership on expanding our in-person meetings to include Sunday School, Priesthood, Relief Society, and Youth meetings. We hope to have guidelines in place for expanded meetings in the coming weeks and will encourage ward leadership to make those guidelines available to all ward members.

Additionally, we have received authorization from the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to hold a virtual Stake Conference on Saturday and Sunday, April 17 & 18, 2021. Additional details to follow with adjustments as necessary as restrictions are lifted.

Members should seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they consider their return to in-person services. Those who are in high risk groups or feel uncomfortable gathering in larger groups are encouraged to attend the meetings virtually.

We look forward to meeting with you and continue to ask for your prayers on behalf of our community as we strive to overcome this pandemic.

With warmest regards,

Gregory V. Anderson

President Gregory V. Anderson

Clay E. Johnson

President Clay E. Johnson

Gary E. Smith

President Gary E. Smith

Sacrament meetings will be held at their normal times and will be simultaneously broadcast to accommodate members who do not attend in person. The following guidelines are to be followed for these worship services. Your bishops/branch president have prayerfully considered any additional guidelines to follow.

- 1st hour meetings are to be held at the normal Sacrament time for each ward, every week. The meetings are to last less than one hour.
- For now, 2nd hour, ward-directed meetings can be held virtually as we plan for a return to in-person meetings.
- The meetings are to be broadcast with the exception of the sacrament ordinance and the meeting may not be recorded.
- To minimize interruptions, the sacrament will be administered to members in attendance following the closing prayer. Members viewing the broadcast at home are also encouraged to have their sacrament ordinance immediately following the meeting.
- State guidelines on the number of individuals able to attend must be strictly followed. We anticipate this will be the lessor of 25% occupancy or 99 members. The ward may need to be separated into different groups and meet on alternating Sundays to meet the guidelines.
- Members attending must abide by all state-mandated social distancing guidelines including the wearing of face masks, 6-ft separation, and sitting only in family groups.
- Members who are exhibiting any signs of COVID-19, have a fever, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days are invited to attend virtually.
- Specific details for your own ward will be provided to you by your ward leadership prior to resuming in-person meetings.

The guiding principles and doctrine of gathering together often to fast, to pray, to partake of the Lords' supper should dominate our actions and thoughts as we prepare to resume in-person meetings.

We are mindful of the concerns many of you have, and your safety is paramount as we come back together. We ask you to consider not only your own health and well-being, but also that of your fellow members as you decide to attend church.

We encourage bishops to distribute this letter by any means necessary to those members who may not have email.