



STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND STATE POLICE

1401 Belair Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-4101



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

**COLONEL
WOODROW W. JONES III**
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

April 3, 2020

To all Harford County Church Leaders,

As Holy Week has come upon us, I ask that you continue to follow Governor Hogan's Executive Order. As you may know, Governor Hogan amended the order which closed all "spiritual and religious gatherings and events" at all locations and venues as well as the "stay at home order." The amended order allows for "drive-in religious services." Parishioners may leave their homes to travel by vehicle to and from the religious facility, but must remain in their vehicle at all times. Vehicles may not contain more than 10 persons. Furthermore, parishioners may not interact physically with clergy, staff or other participants.

Another change in the order was allowing clergy to conduct limited in-person services at their respective facility. Clergy, staff and participants may travel to and from the facility and not more than 10 persons may be present during the service. Social distancing measures shall be adhered to. There is also a required four (4) hour gap between the end of a service and beginning of another. I have attached the Maryland State Police press release which has more details.

Please understand these measures are put in place to protect the lives of our fellow citizens. The sacrifices made by so many over these several difficult weeks will be for naught by one large gathering in a sanctuary. Forty-five out of sixty choir members at the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Mt. Vernon, Washington have tested positive for the Coronavirus after holding a choir practice on March 10th. Two have died. That is how easily and quickly the virus spreads. I too will find it difficult to not be in my church on Palm or Easter Sunday. However, my pastor told us, "We are the church, wherever we are." Please convey this message to your parishioners.

All of Harford County Law Enforcement appreciates the outreach and support that we have from our faith community in our county. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. I wish you a blessed Holy Week and a wonderful Easter.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Timothy Mullin
Commander
Bel Air Barrack
Maryland State Police