

# Coalition for Action: COVID-19

As we face the challenge of COVID-19, **we believe that love for one another requires common actions and behaviors that will preserve life.** We believe that the current pandemic calls for a pan-Christian response (Romans 15:6).

We the undersigned, as part of the Church universal, believe it is critical that we speak out concerning the current crisis and with one voice declare that **the sanctity of life requires that we do what is necessary to preserve life through wise behavior.** The following is a statement of commitment by Denominations, Ministries and Christian Institutions, and Churches to act with wisdom and in obedience to the directives of civil authority (1 Timothy 2:1-5; Romans 13:7) and common sense during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our call is to promote faith and wisdom in our personal lives and in our community relationships (James 1:5; Proverbs 9:10). We agree with the great Reformer Martin Luther when he wrote:

*“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”* [Martin Luther in a letter to Rev. Dr. John Hess, 1527, concerning a plague that hit his town of Wittenberg. For the full letter, [click here.](#)]

We believe, as God’s Church, that He is calling us to stand together in the face of bad information and misinformation, and rather be the salt, light, and leaven in our communities (Colossians 3:14; Romans 15:5; James 1:5) .

**As a Common Voice during the Pandemic our** denomination, ministry/organization, or church, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) understands the need to take the following actions within our sphere of influence to combat COVID-19 by encouraging the following:

1. **Environmental** – This one is the most obvious and the most immediate at this time. Thoughts in this regard should be toward reducing the chance for this virus to survive in our immediate environments (Proverbs 1:7; 3:13-18; Ephesians 5:17-17)
  - Practice social distancing: two meters (6 feet) distance between individuals.
  - Where possible, hold meetings by phone, WhatsApp, or other mediums to reduce contagion. Use radio and television where available.
  - Wash hands frequently with soap to prevent the spread of any disease.
  - Wear a mask if going into public areas.
  - Report to the hospital if signs of difficulty in breathing, fever, and dry cough.
2. **Social** – Thoughts in this regard should go toward how to love our neighbor effectively (Matthew 22:37-40).
  - Suspend all large church gatherings until the national government releases us from the restrictions for gathering (Romans 13:1-14).
  - Communicate with members and partners through social media channels for calls for worship, prayer, and teaching (Zoom, WhatsApp, etc.), (Ephesians 4:29).

- Establish a strategy to work with the poor, disabled, and orphans and others in need of food, shelter, and/or care (James 1:27, 1 Timothy 5:3-8).
- Keep the coalition apprised of developments, positive and negative, in your sphere of influence.
- Share information openly and honestly on how your denomination, ministry, or organization is dealing with the challenges of COVID-19 (Philippians 2:2).
- Give generously to those who face risk of hunger and medical challenges while sheltering in place or infected with the virus (Galatians 6:9,10).

**3. Missional Response**

- Commitment to daily cooperate prayer (Proverbs 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Commitment to weekly fasting (Acts 14:23).
- Develop a strategy for loving those in need who are not part of your denomination, ministry, or organization (Matthew 22:37-40).

**4. Economic Response (Proverbs 21:3;**

- Ask members to not inflate prices due market demand during this crisis, relating to goods in great demand.
- Encourage members creative in using our time, treasure, and talent, to make goods that are in demand and that are necessary to reduce the risk and spread of COVID-19.

**Agreement:**

Yes, we, the \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Denomination, Ministry/

Organization, or Church), join with others in the Global Church, to endorse this Coalition document and make a stand for wisdom and unity as we face the challenges of COVID-19. We will work with those in our sphere of influence to communicate this unifying message and will join in prayer with the greater body of Christ across Africa and around the world.

**Name**

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**Name of Denomination, Ministry or Church:**

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**Your position:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Country:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**

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