

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

New York Conference Communication

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As you may have already heard,

New York State has lifted COVID restrictions, effective immediately.

<https://abc7ny.com/health/ny-lifts-covid-restrictions-across-commercial-social-settings/10792105/>

It has been a difficult 15 months for our state and our conference and I am glad to report this information to you. The question that many have on their minds is, what does this mean for the church now?

After reviewing the information, along with legal counsel, this is what it means for our conference:

- The mask and social distancing guidelines are no longer needed.
- The special disinfecting/cleaning protocols are no longer required.
- All signs, markings, COVID displays can now be removed.
- The church can begin 'normal' church operations, effective immediately. (This is assuming the church boards are in agreement and have been made aware of the changes made by the state.)
This includes Sabbath schools, potluck, ministry/outreach plans, etc.

If there is a question on something specific, feel free to give us a call at the office. There will be individuals and/or churches who may still want to take certain precautions. We have nothing to urge either for or against but encourage our constituents to work together with their boards and maintain a Christlike spirit in the process.

Now is the time, for the New York Conference membership to work together to address and help our family recover from the 'Other' COVID side effects. What are the 'Other' COVID side effects? I'm referring to the broken relationships, the division, the spirit of disagreement that may have entered some of our churches and friendships in the conference. The 'other' side effects are the mental health and spiritual damage that has occurred because we were separated from one another. This has the potential to do more lasting damage to people than the virus itself.

I want to encourage churches to resume communion, socials, breaking bread, praying, loving, forgiving one another, lifting each other's spirits... Jesus is coming soon and we need to be united. We need unity for personal strength but also to be more effective in the potential final moments of earth's history.

Jesus is coming soon!



Pastor Miguel Crespo