



INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

Office of the General Superintendent
A. D. Beacham, Jr., D.Min., Presiding Bishop

August 30, 2021

To the IPHC Global Family,

My heart is heavy with prayers and concern for people around the world with the spike of Covid-19 and variants. Currently, there are more people that I personally know in the IPHC sick with this virus than at any time in 2020. I know that the IPHC bishops around the world and local church pastors are praying for their congregations. Many of our ministers and their families are battling the virus.

It is imperative that we use wisdom in our gatherings at churches and in the public realm. Our denominational offices in Oklahoma City are requiring everyone to wear a mask in common areas. Many of us have chosen to take one of the Covid-19 vaccines in order to protect ourselves and others. I'm aware there is controversy about the vaccines. I encourage you to speak with your physician about questions you have concerning it.

Around the world the pandemic and its treatment are politicized. Nations and governments are struggling how to address the pandemic, and citizens are concerned about civil liberties. In times of crisis, these two tensions are magnified. In the United States, this tension is evident in the discussions about religious exemptions for the vaccines. The IPHC does not provide a religious exemption for the Covid-19 and variant vaccines. We hold that these are personal decisions between an individual and their physician. We encourage local pastors to advise their congregants to discuss health-related matters with their physicians.

Since the advent of this pandemic in early 2020, we have been challenged in our understanding of the church in worship and service. The Holy Spirit has pushed us beyond our church walls into our physical and digital communities. Families continue to struggle with grief, fear, and uncertainty. Many pastors feel the strains of ministering in a context where it feels like we will never be pre-2020 normal again. And that may be the case, even once this pandemic is over.

As the people of God, it is imperative we remember the foundations of our life. We worship Jesus Christ, we serve people in need, we care for one another and those around us. We remain people committed to the Word of God and to the promises of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Let us continue to be wise as we worship the Lord and serve one another and those in need. Let us continue to pray for healthcare workers and for government leaders as they serve and lead in these uncharted waters. Let us continue to remember that Jesus is Lord and we do not have to be controlled by fear.

Sincerely,

Dr. A.D. Beacham, Jr.
Presiding Bishop

IPHC MINISTRIES