



BRETT BRAY
BLANCO COUNTY JUDGE
PO BOX 387
JOHNSON CITY, TX 78636
830-868-4266
cojudge@co.blanco.tx.us

4-2-20

Pastor Frank Spillman
Arena of Peach Cowboy Church
2254 Old Marble Falls Rd.
Round Mountain, TX 78663

Pastor Spillman,

We are in receipt of your notification that you will be holding church services in person on Sundays and Tuesdays. We are aware of the Governor's most recent order allowing, but not encouraging, churches to gather persons for worship. **We do not agree with this practice at this time.** However, the Governor's order also makes it clear that local officials may not contradict his order allowing services to take place. However, even if you proceed as outlined, you are still bound by that part of the Governor's order that requires compliance with the President's guideline. Presently, those guidelines limit assembled groups to 10 or less. Thus, you cannot have more than 10 parishioners in the service congregation at one time.

The importance of people being able to hold close to their faith, especially in the situation we find ourselves in, is not lost on us. But, at this crucial time in the course of this pandemic incident, we believe it is unwise to place persons in groups as you have described. We cannot endorse your plan. Given the constraints on local authority in this area, if you insist on going forward, we ask that anyone in your congregation self-quarantine for 14 days after attendance at any of your services. Furthermore, we ask that you go beyond just the suggestion of using supplied hand sanitizer and employ personal protective equipment for each attendee.

The Governor's order specifically says:

"If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good

hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

We read this to say you shouldn't even consider conducting in person services unless you CANNOT conduct remote services. We strongly encourage you to check out the flexibility of Zoom, Facebook and a myriad of other social media platforms to reach your congregation remotely and safely.

Respectfully,



Brett Bray
Blanco County Judge