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March 17, 2020

Dear Cambria Baptist Church Family and Friends

For all of us this unique situation seems to change daily. I wanted to give you an update and a challenge today as we walk through these new waters. As the church leadership has made decisions throughout this event, we have been guided by several principles from the Word. I have been continually aware of my calling to care for the flock of God (1 Pet. 5:2-3; Heb. 13:17); that we must be honorable before all men (2 Cor. 8:21); the command to care for the most vulnerable among us (James 2:14-17); and the command to honor civil authorities (Rom. 13:1).

Last night, Governor Whitmer expanded her executive order to restrict groups of 50 or more from gathering through April 5th. We feel strongly that this is not an Acts 5:29 issue. The Governor is not seeking to end Christianity, but rather taking important measures to keep the population safe in an unknown time. As a result, we do feel that this is a Romans 13:1 issue in which we should honor civil authority. It is also a prudent thing for us to care for the most vulnerable among us.

As a result, we have decided to cancel our Sunday morning services through April 5th in addition to the measures we have already taken. At the end of each week, our church body will receive an email with the bulletin and sermon notes. On Saturdays, we will be recording a service and posting it to our YouTube page. We will include the link to this recording in the email at the end of the week. I would encourage you to gather with your family and worship together at 11 am on Sunday morning as you normally would. You will need a Bible, pen, paper, and Church directory.

I know that some will not agree with the decisions that we have made. Some will think we have not done enough, and some will think we have done too much. I would ask that you pray for us in this time and heed the commands of Hebrews 13:17. We have not made these decisions lightly but have agonized over them. These times are not completely unprecedented. The reformers faced these decisions during the plague, European churches faced these decisions during the World Wars, and the American churches faced them during the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1918. So let me remind you all once again: this is not a time for criticism, but for humility and care.

Since we will not be gathering as a body for a few weeks, it is vital that we be creative in our care for one another. To that end I would like to encourage you to take several steps. (1) Each day call two or three different members of Cambria and check in on them. Ask how they are doing. Ask if they have any needs. Pray with them. (2) Check in on your neighbors. See if they have any needs you can meet. Pray with them and share the Gospel with them. (3) Pray for your church leadership as we attempt to care for your souls during this time. (4) Pray for all who are facing economic impacts from this pandemic. (5) We are in a unique situation as a church. We are funded entirely through your generous giving. However, the auditorium will sit empty for a few weeks and



the bills will continue. Please continue to faithfully give. You can mail your checks to the church during this time.

If you have questions, please let me know. At this time, the church phones are being forwarded to my personal phone, so that I can be sure to receive every call. Take this time to read the Word, pray for all, care for those around you, and demonstrate the light of the Gospel through your humble responses.

May God bless you and keep you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Locke".

Pastor Dave and Your Board of Deacons.

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