Safety Guidelines for Churches Conducting Livestream and Pre-Recorded Services

1. Input from Subject Matter Experts – Medical Professionals with Knowledge on the Best Practice Behaviors

On each local church emergency response planning committee there should be a subject matter expert from the medical profession who is providing advice and guidance specifically related to facts and data about the Coronavirus. This expert opinion can include data on local cases and outbreaks as well as how can the exposure to the virus be limited by mitigating behaviors while the team is in the building.

2. Recording Livestream of Worship Services

The novel Coronavirus continues to pose a viable threat to our safety and wellbeing, many churches have been forced to deliver services via livestream. This may require the pastors along with their media teams to go to the churches to record these services. The following recommendations are ways in which we can do so safely:

a. Adhere to local and state requirements regarding group sizes for gathering
b. Only those who are essential to the livestream recording should be present in the building at the time of the recording
c. Church should be of sufficient size to practice "exaggerated" social distancing because of the length of time that individuals will be in the building.

d. **Live praise team performances (in-person) are to be suspended at this time in favor of instrumental, the use of a virtual choir app or pre-recorded performances, while our team of medical experts work on developing a way that we can do this activity safely within our buildings**

e. Time in church building should be minimized as much as possible. Assume everyone has the virus and that the virus is being deposited on surfaces. One solution may involve having as many segments as possible pre-recorded separately to minimize time spent together in the church building.
f. We discourage the practice of touching surfaces while in the building, no two people should touch the same surface without disinfecting such surfaces.
g. Refrain for sharing microphones. Use disposable mic covers that should be removed with a glove and disposed of during cleaning.
h. Markers should be placed to direct those entering the building of direction of foot traffic to avoid crossing paths as far as possible
i. Assume that the virus is being carried asymptomatically. Avoid contact with others as much as possible. Waving to each other is better than close personal greetings of any kind such as: hugs, handshakes, etc.

j. Require the wearing of masks and encourage participants to bring personal hand sanitizers or wash hands on regular basis. Speaking while wearing the mask is the safest and best option for participants in the services.

3. **Ensure that buildings are properly sanitized after services:**
   
   Church must be "appropriately" cleaned and sanitized after streaming services. Sufficient time must have elapsed after the streaming session to protect those who clean. Those who clean must have proper cleaning supplies and PPE for their task.