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June 4, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

I am writing you today with a heart of thanksgiving for how God has sustained us as a church over these past three months. We had no idea that this year would bring us a Pandemic that would literally quarantine us from one another for three months. But we did know that this would be our year of miracles and manifestations. No matter how it looks, I believe that God is setting us up for our greatest season yet.

I wanted to take a moment to write to you to let you know that we are aware that our State and local governments are rapidly approaching their Phase 2 reopening guidelines. And accordingly, we have established a task force of leaders, staff, and members of our church to get "Southern Ready." We are planning and have determined not to have in-person worship during Phase 1. It is likely that we will not be ready until later in Phase 2 or early Phase 3. Please know that the safety of our members, families, volunteers, and friends is of utmost priority to us as we process the data, walk by faith, and exercise the wisdom of the Lord. And when we return, we will have a refreshing experience both physically and virtually.

In closing, thank you for your faithful support. For over three months, we have prayed together during the week every day. We have grown in our virtual bible study attendance. We have fed frontline workers in the ICU's of Johns Hopkins Health System and Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital. We have served meals and groceries to our seniors and to our community. We have worshipped virtually together every Sunday in a powerful, relevant, encouraging, and inspiring way. And, we have given consistently and sacrificially over these past months. To me, our faithfulness and God's favor are a true testament of miracles and manifestations. Again, thank you and let us keep it up as we near the finish line of this season and phase. We will keep you informed and provide you with our "Southern Ready" document very soon.

Please take a moment to call our office or send us a note to share with us your email address and any updated contact information so that you do not miss our weekly updates. I love you Southern and am truly grateful for your trust, support, and faithfulness. Through this season God has shown me that we are his church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against.

Sincerely,

Bishop Donte' L. Hickman, Pastor Southern Baptist Church