



Aloha KNC Ohana,

Happy aloha Friday to you! Here is the latest installment of our COVID 19 updates for Kona Church of the Nazarene.

I can imagine you've probably read about or have been watching the news recently as our nation and the Islands of Hawaii begin to take the path of opening up our way of life and economy. Our governor and mayors, even our president, have now declared that places of worship may reopen for gatherings. Praise the Lord! With that in mind, our leadership team has already begun a dialog and preliminary plan of "when and how" our church Ohana will reopen. At some point here in the not-too-distant future, we will return to on-site gatherings at our facility here on Palani Road and in Miloli'i Village. And if you're like me, you can't wait to gather to worship God with your church Ohana, see your friends, and get back to something familiar that makes life feel normal.

When our state placed restrictions on public gatherings almost ten weeks ago, we moved all of our activities off-site and online. From what I can tell, while not ideal, this was a very prudent and wise action. It was needed to stem the pandemic. Now that we're seeing some easing of these restrictions, I've begun to start considering what reopening might look like here at KNC.

I believe that the pathway forward will not be a full "pedal to the metal" or "giant leap back" to things as they were, but it will be more of a slow persistent crawl. We won't go from 0 – 100 in one weekend, but we will take steps that are prudent with consideration given to us by our some of our wise congregational members who are in healthcare and have been a part of law enforcement and emergency workers. These folk along with a few other will be a part of our Reopening Task Force Team. Please pray for those involved who will help us navigate through the guidelines given to us by the Hawaii County Health Department and the Hawaii State Government.

I want you to be aware that we will value safety for EVERYONE in our church family and community. Not only do we live in an area where a lot people are considered to be in the higher risk categories when it comes to protecting against possible COVID-19 infection, but many of these folk attend our church. Therefore, we want to make sure that we consider the needs of the vulnerable as a top priority in our decisions about when to begin meeting.

You can be assured that we will be doing all we can do to prepare our physical environment to make certain that when we get to gather on-site that we've ensured your protection and safety. During this time away, we've already done a deep cleaning and disinfecting of our sanctuary. We're preparing to follow social distancing, wearing of masks, hand sanitizing, mitigation of contact, and following any restrictions on the size of our gatherings.

Even though safety is one of our top values moving forward, please know that **my goal is for us to meet together again as a church family as soon as possible**. That being said, we also want to be considered good neighbors by our community. We've worked hard over the years to make sure we're perceived as being a positive influence for the common good in our community, and we don't want to jeopardize our reputation because we ignored the guidelines given by our government officials.

Finally, please hear this from my heart to yours on this. God is not surprised by Coronavirus. He has placed us here in Kailua Kona for such a time as this. Our role is to represent Him well so that our families, friends, and neighbors will see Christ through our actions and reactions during this time. While I believe that the church was made to function as a family gathering together, I also believe that God is working in ways we can't even begin to imagine. I heard story after story about how that during this time of pandemic that more than ever God is being made known among the nations...that the potential for our island, nation and world to have a revival may be greater than it's ever been in our lifetime. Will you join me in pray that God will show His glory to our world through the way we follow Him in faith and love and express His message of grace to our world.

This past week, I sent out an invitation to you with a link to a short survey to help us get a pulse on what folk are thinking about reopening our church so that we can serve others in our church and community the best. If you haven't done so already will you please take a moment and complete it and help us make plans for that day when we get to meet again. Here is the link if you need it again [KNC Reopening Survey](#)

KNC Ohana...**WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**. I believe this with all my heart and I am praying and looking forward to the day (in the near future) when we gather again in **COMMUNITY**! Until then, I'll see you online this Sunday at 10 AM.

Mahalo for your support during this challenging and uncertain time.

Peace and Grace,



Pastor Charles  
Lead Pastor  
Kona Church of the Nazarene