



# The Glen Methodist Church

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## **Pastoral letter to members of the Glen Methodist Church**

Dear people of God,

Greetings to you all! I write this letter to you on day 65 of Lockdown, and ask you to continue praying that all of us in the Country will do our best to flatten the curve of this pandemic.

On Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, we enter Level 3 of Covid 19 control in South Africa, as per the address of our State President. One of the decisions taken by the Covid 19 Command Council is that Religious Bodies can also resume their activities and Services at Level 3. To that end, the Leadership of the Glen Society, under the direction of our Circuit Quarterly meeting, Limpopo Synod and the Methodist Connexional Office, has deliberated at the implications of this directive for us as a Church, and has identified the following challenges relating to the resumption of Church services:

- Tshwane is identified as a COVID 19 Hot-spot Area in the Country.
- The risks to the congregation, with the demographics of the congregation at the Glen indicating that we fall under the high risk group age wise. A significant percentage of the congregation at the Glen is older than 60 years.
- The risks posed to the Church leadership, admin staff, logistics and support staff, stewards, etc.
- The potential legal risks posed to the Glen leadership and management teams as a result of COVID-19.
- The risks posed by a few individuals, not necessarily members, that might not adhere to the COVID guidelines, and that put the lives of others at risk.

The Stewards team therefore agreed to the following:

- The Glen Society, together with all the Churches of the Moreleta Circuit **WILL NOT** resume Church Services at this stage.
- All other Church activities like meetings, Bible Studies, Choir Practices etc, will also not start operating until further notice.
- Church Administrative Functions – Will only be operational to a limited extent, and possibly on alternating days, to attend to important admin functions, emails, etc.
- Counselling services and Pastoral Care at the Church will commence, following strict Covid 19 safety protocols.

- The Glen Covid 19 Response team, led by Drs Terblanche and Gantsho, will continue with the Church Readiness programme of gathering PPE's, Infrared thermometers etc, and are at an advanced stage.
- Gardening service at the Church will commence, with Alpheus allowed to use the Staff quarters for accommodation during working days to avoid daily commuting, and thus exposure to infection.
- Our Sunday online services will continue, with the possibility of including Rev Terry Moulton now that he might be permitted to leave Haven Village.

Shalom

Smanga and Wessel