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Rev. Dr. John R. Faison Sr., Senior Pastor
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June 30, 2020

Dear Precious Partner,

Greetings in the Name of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is with great joy that I write this letter to you. You have been in my prayers since the day we were all placed in quarantine in response to this pandemic. I know that God has continually answered those prayers because I consistently hear of the ways in which God has protected and provided for you throughout this time. To God be the glory!

I miss each of you dearly. I wish so badly that I could hug you, hear your voice, and see your face. However, I know that this is not possible at the moment. Your safety and security is my first priority. COVID-19 is still a very real threat to this city, state, and nation. Some churches attempted to return to in-person worship in May and June, only to have to cancel again once the virus began its resurgence. As your pastor, I could not take that chance. Today, I am grateful that I did not. So while I miss you greatly, I love you more. Therefore, we will indefinitely maintain a rhythm of weekly ONLINE worship until the opportunity to gather safely arrives.

While this time away from each other has been difficult, I am pleased to report that our church is strong as ever. We have more people worshipping with us online than we did when we met in-person for worship. Additionally, people are accepting Christ, rededicating their lives to Christ, and joining our church online every week. Our giving has not diminished during the pandemic; in fact, it has increased! Furthermore, our ability to provide effective ministry has been infused with a creativity we never knew we possessed. Our staff, leadership, and volunteers have been absolutely extraordinary in keeping our church flourishing. From our weekly food pantry to onsite, drive-thru COVID-19 testing, we are still making a difference in our community. We much owe much of this progress to your continued financial support and your incessant prayers and patience. Your faithfulness continues to make us a strong church in a stressful climate. Without a doubt, I have never been more proud of The Grove than I am in this season.

We are a GROWING church for GROWING people whom Christ will use in GROWING His Kingdom

As we move forward, you can be completely confident that we will do only what is best for our partnership. We will make our decisions based upon DATA, not DATES. When the health professionals inform us that we are able to move forward with reopening, that is when we will move in that direction. Until then, stay home and stay safe. If you have to go out, wear a mask. Wash your hands well and regularly. Practice social distancing. If you are able to get tested, please do so. With the combination of faith in our hearts and the discipline of our hands, we will get through this.

Please know that we will do our very best to keep you informed about the future of The Grove. Inside this packet, you will find an updated schedule of what is happening in the coming weeks. I want to also encourage you to do three things:

1. Regularly check our website, thegrovenash.org, for news and updates. Our website is the best, most up-to-date format for communicating the latest information.
2. Join our churchwide texting system. On your cell phone, text TheGroveNash to 84576. Then simply follow the instructions that are sent to you. This will allow us to quickly send important information to you concerning The Grove.
3. Join us for worship every Sunday at 11AM Central at thegrovenash.org or on our Facebook page. Then, pay attention to the announcements that are shared during worship. They will also keep you informed about the great things that are happening.

This year, The Grove will celebrate 131 years of ministry and mission. Needless to say, we have seen tough times before. But in every step of our journey, the Lord has brought us through. Beloved, this time will be no different. Stay encouraged. Keep trusting in the God Who does all things well. Keep praying and keep loving each other. Victory belongs to us. Remember, we are Kingdom Citizens. Our faith is in Jesus Christ, and our future is bright.

I love you with the love of Christ. By God's grace, I will see you soon!

Sincerely,

John R. Faison, Sr.

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Senior Pastor

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