



MT. PILGRIM BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Office of the Moderator

Rev. Dr. Charles R. Winston, Jr.

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Dear Mt. Pilgrim Pastors and Congregations:

Our prayer is that the Lord has kept and prospered you amid this Covid-19 Pandemic. We have lost loved ones prematurely to a virus that has crippled the world. We express our deepest sympathy to every family and church family affected by this deadly virus. We wish a speedy recovery to all those that may be healing and remain in the struggle. We are also reminded of our loved ones residing in Nursing facilities facing loneliness because of the lengthy separation from family and friends. Not to mention, the loss of jobs and the abrupt closing of the educational system that help to prepare and equip our young people for life continue to feel the effects of the absence of on-site learning.

We feel your pain, as we all suffer the impact of this pandemic. We have been faced with so many situations that have caused us to rethink how we Worship and Fellowship. In March 2020, our traditional and comfortable way of Worship suddenly became more different than we could have ever imaged. Technology in the church quickly rose to an all-time high with tools such as Live Streaming, Facebook, Zoom, Webinars, Video Conferencing, and One Number Conference Calls just to stay in touch and hear to voices of our members. For the congregations that have been able to keep their doors open or re-open, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines recommends that we all wear masks, social distance, wash hands and sanitize often. For our protection against this raging virus that could be fatal if contracted, the governor has placed a "Stay at home Order" for Alabama residents. Even now, many of our churches are experiencing economic decline, have not returned to their respective places of Worship and continue to live stream their Worship Services.

Our beloved Mt. Pilgrim, as a body of believers in Christ Jesus, though times have been uncertain and trying, we cannot park. We must continue to navigate through this unprecedented pandemic season. As you know, we have not been able to meet for our Regular Quarterly Meetings. In July, our Congress of Christian Education was canceled. Our **Annual Session** scheduled for the 2nd week in October **has been canceled** due to Covid-19 concerns. Next year our Annual Session will convene February 16-17, 2021 during the time of our February Board Meeting,

We have sincerely missed seeing you all over the past months. We appreciate all the work you do to keep Mt. Pilgrim moving forward.

This year is an Election Year at Mt. Pilgrim and we want to give all persons seeking office ample opportunity to let their desire to serve be known and to be placed on the Ballot. Further details on the Election will be forthcoming.

Finally, I am asking the Mt. Pilgrim family to vote November 3, 2020. You may vote in person Monday through Friday at the Courthouse in Birmingham or Bessemer from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 pm.

It is important that you also complete your 2020 Census Form ASAP! If you have not completed your form already, the form is available at: www.2020.census.gov.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns.
You Matter,

Charles R. Winston, Jr.

Dr. Charles R. Winston, Jr., Moderator

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 2245, Birmingham, AL 35201

Website: www.mpbda.com