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From Bishop McAlilly:

It has been 6 weeks since I requested our pastors and lay leaders to suspend public worship in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. I challenged all of you to find alternative ways to practice and sustain our faith. I am, and continue to be, inspired by your response and creativity!

As I expressed to you in March, I am convinced the faith community has a very important role to play in our communities during this unusual health crisis.

This week, I listened to government officials and consulted with several health professionals about phasing in a return to public worship and congregational gatherings. I confess that I do not know the single best course of action to take.

However, the most compassionate and caring approach for our return to public worship should always consider those who are most vulnerable among us.

Therefore, I have determined it is in the best interest of our churches and faith communities for public worship and congregational gatherings remain suspended through May 31.

Through this cautious and proactive action, I pray that our witness and example will save lives.

As you know, things change daily with this pandemic. I will continue to consult regularly with health experts and conference leadership concerning our date to resume public worship and gatherings.

We will one day soon be able to safely and joyfully gather! In the coming weeks, I encourage you to prepare your church for that day.