



TRUTH & LIBERTY  
COALITION

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Jared Polis  
Governor of Colorado  
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136  
Denver, CO 80203

Ms. Jill Hunsaker Ryan  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek South Drive  
Denver, CO 80246

Dear Governor Polis and Executive Director Ryan,

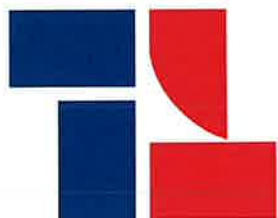
We the undersigned 704 pastors and leaders in churches and ministries across the great state of Colorado are writing regarding the restrictions you have imposed upon our churches and religious gatherings.

These are certainly unprecedented times with no proven path through them. We appreciate your position and the difficulty you are faced with. We don't envy the burden you carry and realize there are not any easy answers. We have been praying for you.

We have voluntarily been cooperating with your "Stay at Home" and "Safer at Home" directives out of respect for your office, love for our fellow citizens and hope that this situation would end quickly. But our participation has been voluntary.

Your orders prohibit public and private gatherings of more than ten individuals. These prohibitions effectively ban all in person congregational worship. The Safer at Home Order then exempts scores of "critical businesses" including oil and gas drillers, liquor stores, firearms stores, and marijuana dispensaries. If our religious freedom means anything, it means that the State must treat churches at least as well as it does stores for guns, liquor, and marijuana.

This is a violation of our constitutional rights to freely exercise our religion and to peaceably assemble. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law ... prohibiting the free exercise [of religion]." The Constitution does not cease to exist during a pandemic, and as a matter of conscience, we can no longer abide by such restrictions.



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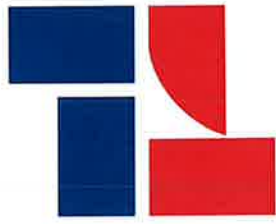
The assembly of our congregations to worship together is not a luxury. We as pastors and religious leaders are bound by Scripture to come together on the Lord's day to worship. As the Bible says in Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."i

Our communities are suffering. Calls to suicide prevention centers are up as well as substance abuse. Stress is taking a toll on people's mental and physical health, and there is spiritual sickness too. The Church is uniquely qualified – and called by God - to address these issues. It is short sighted to focus only on physical health and ignore financial, emotional, and spiritual health. The ministry of the Church is essential to the wellbeing of our society. To fulfill this calling, we must come together with those we serve.

Therefore, we are respectfully informing you that on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020, in solidarity with thousands of other churches around the country, we will resume our church gatherings. We hope that your orders and directives will accommodate our actions, but even if they do not, we will still exercise our constitutional rights to gather in obedience to our Lord's commands. We are not rebellious or lawbreakers, but, like Peter and the apostles long ago, we must "obey God rather than man."

In taking this action, we, like you, understand that there are health risks associated with every choice. We cannot guarantee that our congregants will meet every rule, but we commit to use our best efforts to comply with the Social Distancing Requirements in the Safer at Home Public Health Order, including six-foot social distancing (except for members of the same household), thorough handwashing or sanitizing, requiring the covering of sneezes and coughs with elbows or sleeves (not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and abstaining from shaking hands. Many of our congregations will take precautions beyond these.

We are grateful that our State and Nation have long protected religious freedom, and that the new coronavirus does not suspend that freedom. We are confident that our constitutional



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rights, as described in the enclosed letter from our attorneys at Nussbaum Speir Gleason PLLC, ensure that we may lawfully resume corporate worship.

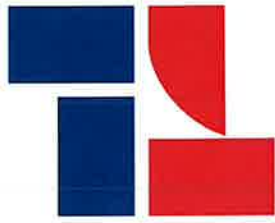
Respectfully,

*Andrew Wommack*

Andrew Wommack,  
President, Truth and Liberty Coalition

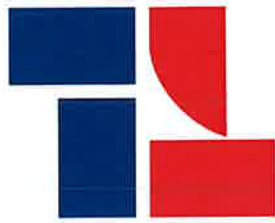
AND

Christopher	Savage	Radiant Church	Woodland Park
Kevin	Bearly	Castle Rock Church of Christ	Castle Rock
Amy Elaine	Martinez	Journey Colorado	Castle Rock
Dee	Johnson	Goodman Valley Community Chapel	Colorado Springs
Nancy	Krizek	Fellowship Bible Church	Colorado Springs
Nathan	Johnson	Cross Fellowship Church	Colorado Springs
Noah	Sackrison	Flatirons church	Lafayette
Bruce	Johnson	Woodmen Valley Chapel	Colorado Springs
John	Binns	Saint Katharine Drexel	Cape Coral
Lloyd	Nichols	Church at Loveland	Loveland
Joe	Stephenson	Colorado Cowboys For Jesus Church	Colorado Springs
Garrett	Graupner	Fervent Church	Peyton
Kevin	Moldenhauer	Calvary Castle Rock	Castle Rock
Harvey	Hoover	Calvary Worship Center	Colorado Springs
Julian	VanDyke	All Greenhorn Valley Churches	Colorado City
MaryAnn	Robertson	High Place Ministries	Colorado Springs
Larry	Livingston	Denver Calvary	Denver
Andie	Davidson	Redemption Parker	Parker
Stuart	Hallam	Bible Missionary	Elizabeth
Kari	Newsom	Legacy Church	Divide



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Chris	Bateman	Woodland Park Community	Woodland Park
David	Goddard	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Kevin	Farmer	Wheatfield	Aurora
Victoria	Oliver Foote	Impact Christian Church	Woodland Park
Glen	Kline	New Life Christian Center	Eckley
Michelle	Farnholtz	Creekside Bible Church	Castle Rock
Mischa	Jargowsky	Praise Assembly of God	Pueblo
Jose	Medina	Foundations Church	LOVELAND
Grace	Kim	JBC	Colorado Springs
Aldo	Dominguez	International ministry	Pueblo
Bea	Lucero Martinez	Agape	Pueblo
Linda	Goddard	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Bryan	Sanford	The Wellspring Vineyard Church	Florence
Stacy	Megyeri	Calvary worship center	Colorado Springs
Anita & Stephen	Dalbey	Children Are Forever	Colorado Springs
Allen	Huff	The Anchor church	Colorado Springs
Val	Rosenthal	New life church	Colorado Springs
Charlotte	Ibsen	Heart2Heart Ministries	Lakewood
Steven	VanHorn	Discovery church of Colorado	Colorado Springs
Cynthia	Marson	Bridgeway Chir6ch Denver	Denver
Linda	Germaine	VENTURE CHURCH	Lochbuie
Raymond	Troup	Victory Life Church	Colorado Springs
Carrie	Bearly	Castle rock church of Christ	Castle rock
Lisa	Ricci	Cherry Hills Community Church	Highlands Ranch
Heather	Strom	VLC	Colorado Springs
Jo	Wood	Saint James Church	Colorado Springs
Debra	Swisher	Ridgeline Community Church	Castle Rock
Rosann	Curran	Pueblo New Beginnings	Pueblo
Karen	Baker	Light if the World and Our Lady of the Pines	Littleton and Conifer
Carla	Begel	St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church	Pueblo West
Julio	Sanchez	New Hope Ministries of Commerce City	Commerce City
Nicole	Blanchard	Discovery	Colorado springs



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Michelle	Dill	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Pilar	Hanes	Anthem Denver	Denver
Bruce	Sorensen	Calvary Castle Rock	Castle Rock
Donna	Renatti	Springs Lighthouse	Colorado Springs
Pasquale	Navas	Saints for Christ	Las Animas
Cindy	Williams	online	Eads
Telesfor			
Gilberto	Montoya	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Katrina	Romero	New Life	Colorado Springs
Donna	Montoya	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Hannah	Eberhardt	The life Church	Pueblo
Malissa	Quintana	Church of Christ	Walsenburg
Stacy	Batten	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Patricia	Morphet	Rocky Mountain Calvary	Colorado Springs
Lisa	Medina	Second chance through faith	Colorado Springs
Colleen	Guthery	Alamosa Christian Church	Alamosa
Emely	Rico	The Road at Chapel Hills	Colorado Springs
Randy	Lucero	Word Alive Church	Thornton
Joe	Balas	Mesa Hills	Colorado Springs
Sam	Watne	Harvest Baptist	Boulder
Norma	Jurado	Victory Life Ministries	Pueblo
Lori	Gray	Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints	Florissant
Karen	Aldridge	Awakening	Colorado Springs
Marlene	CARTER	Family Worship Center	Pueblo
Carol	Holwerda	Foundations	Windsor
Jane	Call	Calvary Worship Center	Colorado Springs
Danny	Brown	Hope Alive Church	overland park
Ashley	Tinger	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Rick	McKinney	The Lords Chapel	Trinidad
Amanda	Gandera	Calvary worship center church	Colorado Springs
Valerie	Gegelman	Christ in the Canyon	Trinidad
Daniel	Tinger	Church for all Nations	Colorado Springs
Christopher	Taylor	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Christopher	Nelson	Word of Life Christian Center	Lone Tree, CO



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Allen	Woodworth	The Street Church	Colorado Springs
Stacey	Rigaud	Woodman Valley	Monument
Veronica	Johnston	Mountain Springs Church	Colorado Springs
Kristal	Louden	New Life Church	Colorado Springs
Carolyn	Grenfell	Rocky Mountain Chapel	Cripple Creek
Mohamad	Faridi	Grace training center	Colorado Springs
Margaret	Benton	Ridgeline Community Church	Castle Rock
Dalton	Maples	The Road	Colorado Springs
Joani	Rayl	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Loru	Nelson	Rock Family	Colorado. Springs
Ellen	Williams	Rocky Mountain Calvary	Colorado Springs
Mark	Rivas	CFAN	Colorado Springs
Alina	Kharkov	Elastin hills Baptist church	Arvada
Kim	Younger	Legacy	Green Mountain Falls
Bonnie	Nelson	Church for all Nations	Colorado Springs
Tara	Luce	Grandview Christian Church	Canon City
Connie	Miller	Ridgeline Community Church	Castle Rock
Paul	Isaacs	Save the Storks	Colorado Springs
Clare	Sewell	MHBC	Littleton
Sophia	Hume	Flatirons	Lafayette
Stagia	Byrd	Latter Glory	Aurora
Mekella	Butterfield	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Chris	Eberhard	Springs Church	Colorado Springs
Audrey	Ditton	Community Church of Gunnison	Gunnison
Aubrey	Okuchaba	Denver Church of Christ	Denver
March	Pered	Novation	Westminster
Chris	Garcia	New Hope Ministries	Lakewood
Christian	Filippi	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Marissa	Everitt	New Life Church	Colorado Springs
Brandon	Johnson	Red Rocks	Lone Tree
BETTY & WAYNE	DICKINSON	Mountain View Community Church	Canon City
Willie mae	Kimbrough	Denver Christian bible church	Denver
Teresa	Pacheco	CFAN	Springs



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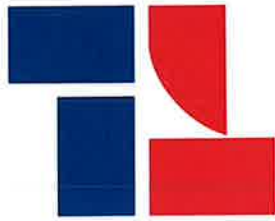
Mischa	Jargowsky	Praise Assembly of God	Pueblo
Julie	Butterfield	Church of all Nations	Colorado Springs
Matthew	Pacheco	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Jackie	Nilson	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Bevin	Bold	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Jennifer	Whitaker	Gateway Baptist	Loveland
Luke	Pastor	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Sally	Amador	Eastern Hills	Aurora
Frederick	Rodriguez	church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Joshua	Bold	Aims.org	Colorado Springs
Diane	Herndon	New Life Church	Colorado Springs
Tom	Whitfield	River of life Community Church	Dacono
Brandon	Mills	First Southern Baptist La Junta	La Junta
Lawson	Perdue	Charis Christian Center	Colorado Springs
Renette	Joubert	Grace and Faith	Woodland Park
Laura	Obert	Christ Community Church	Greeley
Brandyn	Grosse	Rocky Mountain Calvary	Colorado Springs
Sabrina	Kiely	Behalf of all Religious Institutions	Denver
Lee Etta	Callahan	New Life Church	Colorado Springs
Joseph	Winger	Boulder Street Church	Colorado Springs
Janet	Merrill	Hope Church of the C&MA	Aurora
Ruth	Marquez	The Road at Chapel Hills	Colorado Springs
Winfred	Smith	Highland Park Baptist Church	Colorado Springs
Yvonne	Moffit	CFAN	Colorado Springs
Mark	Moffit	CFAN	Colorado Springs
Laura	Kotrosa	Various	Castle Rock
Carlos	Bulalayao	New Beginning Community Church	Parker
Pamela	Stroot	Calvary Chapel	Pueblo
Kim	Pasic	Red Rocks Church	Arvada
Nolan	Goodall	Impact Christian Church	Woodland Park
Allee	Williams	Freedom Church CO	Woodland Park
Carol	Kolosso	Radiant	Woodland Park
Heidi	Franke	Charis Christian Center	Colorado Springs



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Susan	Adams	Red Rocks Church	Denver
Linda	Donelson	Catch the Fire Boulder	Lafayette
Sharon	Sibole	Majestic Baptist Church	Pueblo West
Tony	Atkinson	Holy apostles	Colorado Springs
Yelena	Yefremkov	Ralston Hills Baptist church	Arvada
Tatiana	Wright	Red rocks	Littleton
Renee	Gross	Brave Church	Englewood
Armando	Balderas	Redeemer Temple	Arvada
Karen	Sifuentes	Calvary Chapel Eastside	Colorado Springs
Tammy	Ladd	aspen ridge church	Evergreen
Joshua	Allen	Hope Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs
Anna	Dornbrack	Little Chapel in the Hills	Florissant
Karen	Kahler	Calvary Church	Aurora
Tami	Jasso	Calvary Arvada	Arvada
Ranelle	Williams	LifeBridge	Longmont
Yvonne	Rosnick	Truth Calvary Church	Littleton
June	Gordon	Church For All Nations	Color Spgs
Yolanda	Mulflur	Babtist church Blackforest	Colorado Springs
Tiffany	Graham	Calvary Worship Center	Manitou springs
Chris	Landry	Calvary Church Aurora	Aurora
Jennifer	Barkenhagen	Plum Creek Church	Castle Rock
Linda	Munson	Sterling 4 Square	Sterling
Donna	Batt	St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church	Pueblo West
David	Mura	North Metro Church	Thornton
Jonathon	Gwaltney	Walsenberg Baptist	Walsenberg
Christine	McElhaney	Anchor Point Church	Colorado Springs
Christine	Mazza	Red Rocks Church	Lone tree
David	Gustaveson	Youth With A Mission - Rock Church	Castle Rock
Daniel	Robinson	Hook Ministries	Colorado Springs
Tina	Mally	St. Francis of Assisi	Longmont
Naji	Foster	Vertical	Denver
Christine	Harris	New life fellowship	Rifle
Bessie	Lancaster	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Canon City





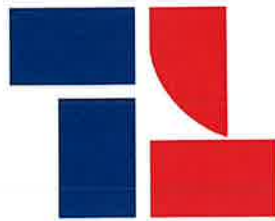
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William	Brandon	Springs Church	Colorado Springs
Jacob	Vacura	Antioch Church COS	Colorado Springs
Trish	Workman	Grace	Delta
Lisa	Pior	Legacy Church	Green Mountain Falls
Beth	Woodard	St. Peter	Monument
Lauren	Fitzer	Redemption City Church	Westminster
Trudy	Roberts	Charis Christian Center	Colorado Springs
John	Aragon	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Alex	Marcozzi	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	PEYTON
Kathy	Inman	Table Mountain Church	Rye
Kurt	Vasquez	Family Faith & Worship	Pueblo
Karen	Ranglos	Flatirons	Longmont
Tim	Tucker	Ramah Baptist Fellowship	Ramah
Christina	Buckles	Mountain Springs church	Colorado Springs
Daria	Ladtkow	Flatirons Community Church	Lafayette
Thomas	Richard	New life manitou	Manitou Springs
Memphus	Kast	Christian Growth Center	Pueblo
Raul	Reyes	Life Equip	Colorado Springs
Brian	Hearn	Calvary worship center	Colorado Springs
Jennifer	Gonzalez	Orchard church	Brighton
John	Aldrich	Vanguard	Colorado Springs
Charles	Johnson	Heart of Worship Ministries	Colorado Springs
Charity	Morine	Castle Rock church of Christ	Castle Rock
Julie	Mack	Universal Ministries of Truth	Colorado Springs
Jeremiah	Bishop	Rock mountain Calvary	Colorado Springs
Kayd	Miller	Grace Community	Montrose
K	Rice	Discovery Church Colorado	Colorado Springs
Otis	Greenwood Jr.	Truevine Gospel Ministry	Plantersville
Sharon	Sullenberger	Central Christian	Pueblo
Sam	Forrester	South Fellowship Church	Littleton
Alicia	Terrill	Rocky Mountain Christian church	Longmont
Candess	Carris	Castle Rock Baptist Church	Castle Rock
Lori	Denning	Monument Hill Church	Monument



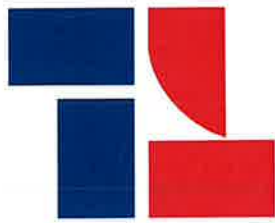
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Branden	Peasner	Briar gate Christian church	Colorado Springs
Kathleen	Lutz	Colorado Cowboys for Jesus	Colorado Springs
Patricia	Keller	Rocky Mountain Church	Estes Park
Lindy	Tidball	Church for all Nations	Colorado Springs
Lori	Branigan-Palmer	Red rocks church	Cuchara
Jamie	Wheatley	Colorado Springs Ministry	Colorado Springs
		IDD Restauracion y Esperanza (Spanish church)	Colorado Springs
Pedro	Perez	Sunrise	Colorado. Springs
Rebecca	kasten	Faith Christian Fellowship	Trinidad
Bill	Frashuer	Calvary Worship Center	Colorado Springs
Kris	Schroetlin		Loveland
Caroline	Chilson		Castle Rock
Elisa	Told		Federal Heights
Judith	Scheie	Thrive Church	Denver
Anna	Miller	True Life Church	Castle Rock
Christian	Metzler	Plum Creek Church	Littleton
Dave	Nelson	Passionate Life Church	Monument
Phillip	Puckett	Springs Church	Colorado Springs
Jeffrey	Carper	Pulpitrock Church	Boulder
Kristy	Dolenc	Calvary Bible Church	Arvada
Jeanette	Leishman	Grace Church	Briggsdale
Michelle	Ekhoff	Cowboy church	Erie
Heather	Dawson	Calvary Bible	Castle Rock
David	Smit	Calvary Castle Rock	Johnstown
Janina	Jenkins	True Abundance	Niwot
Erin	Barklow	Rocky Mountain Christian church	Woodland Park
Bradley	Grizzle	Baptist	All cities
Laura	McClure		Woodland Park
Tessa	Swearingin	Freedom Church CO	Highlands Ranch
Angela	Van Gelder	Cherry Hills Community Church	Aurora
Douglas	Ford	Restoration Worship Center	Columbia
Christina	Nick	ChristLife Ministries	Longmont
Susan	Sackrison	All churches FREEDOM OF RELIGION	Parker
Alicia	Carroll	Crossroads	



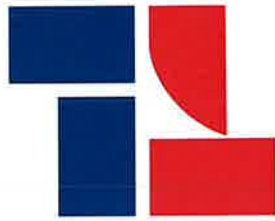
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Kimberly	Whitney	Bethany Lutheran	Pueblo
Rich	Kolosso	Impact Church	Woodland Park
Justin	Matherson	Recalibrate Church	Durango, CO
Timothy	Johnston	Freedom Church	Woodland Park
Pamela	Meyer	JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH	Lone Tree
Marilyn	David	CHTC	Falcon
Larry	Davis	CHTC	Falcon
Hallie	Beard	Fusion International	Canon City
Wendy	Littlepage	Unity of Boulder	Boulder
Menorah	Terry	Shema ministries	Westminster
Kathy	Raney	Freedom	Colorado Springs
Andrea	Hirsch	WhiteFlag Calvary	Denver
Hallie	Fabbro	River of Life	Grand junction
Stephani	John	Red Rocks Church	Arvada
Misti	Dunlap	Flatirons	Lafayette
Kristin	Coggins	City on Hill Church	Boulder
Rondi	Stratton	Woodmen Valley Chapel	Colorado Springs
Elizabeth	Mendieta	Our Lady of the Snow	Wheat Ridge
Jennifer	Wells	Springs Church	COLORADO SPRINGS
Ashante	Wood	Flatirons Community Church	Lafayette
Lauri	Steerman	Foundations	Loveland
Steve	Earley	Faith Life Fellowship Denver	Denver
Ashlee	Sturgeon	Timberline Church	Fort Collins
Amanda	Lockman	Victory Life	Woodland Park
Victoria	Johnson	Thrive Church	Thornton
Cassie	Miller	Mountain Springs Church	Colorado Springs
Cayla	Kaltenbach	Bear valley church	Lakewood
Matthew	Ghormley	Southeast Christian church	ENGLEWOOD
April	Burns	Cherry Hills Christian	Highlands Ranch
Jessica	Lovitt	Pax Christi	Highlands Ranch
Alicia	Pepe	Jubilee Fellowship Church	Lone Tree
Ere	Cara	One Chapel	AUSTIN
Deborah	Lepp	New Song	Arvada



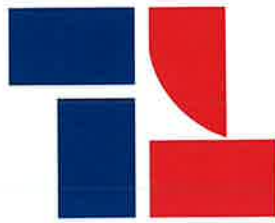
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Sondra	Davis	Rocky Mountain Calvary	Colorado Springs
Phil	Daugherty		Cheyenne Wells
Betty & Roger	Uecker	Immanuel Lutheran	Haxtun
Melanie	Burns	Fellowship of the Rockies	Pueblo
Tom	Breeze	Chatfield Christian Fellowship	Littleton
Tiffany	LeBlanc	TriLakes Church of Christ	Monument
Richard	Klinesmith	Hope Baptist	Nashville
Katie	Stoner	Non-denominational ministry	Evergreen
Victoria	Verderosa	City On The Hill	Boulder
Horacio	Lopez	Centro Familiar Cristiano	Denver
Jan	Brackett	Red Rock	Colorado Springs
George	Casias	The Vineyard of Pueblo	Pueblo
Glenn	Hodge	Springs of Life	Colorado Springs
Deborah	Thompson	Boost Church	Northglenn
William	Rodriguez	Praise Center Church	Denver
Cheryl	Reinhardt	The Sanctuary	Manitou Springs
John	Clark	SouthGate Church	LOVELAND
Andrew	Theisen	Redeemer Temple	Arvada
Lynn	Emrick	Red rocks	Arvada
Kenneth	Rees,	Resurrection Anglican Fellowship	Denver
Richard	Davis	Heartbeat ministries	Colorado Springs
Anna	Gearhart	Red Rocks Church	Denver
Makaela	Stevens	Crossroads	Fort Collins
Catherine	Rice	Woodmen	Monument
Colleen	Owens	Faith Presbyterian Church	Aurora
Hunter	Ortuno	Mountain Springs Community	Colorado Springs
Marsha	Burke	St. Marks Catholic Church	Federal Heights
Ernestina	Pineda	Iglesia Ebenezer, AMM	Colorado Springs
Berda	Steen	Church In The City-Beth Abraham	Denver
James	Burke	St Mark's	Federal Heights
Vicki	Collins	Rocky Mountain Church	Cripple Creek
Ronald	Gibson	Monument Hill Church	Monument
Annemarie	Sunderhuse	Red Rocks Church	Lakewood



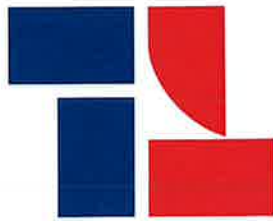
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Ken	Willard	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Tyrone	Alexander	Bethesda Temple	Commerce city
Naomi	Woo	Waterstone	Littleton
		The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day	
		Saints	Canon City
Patti Jo	Medina	Liberty Plains Baptist	Simla
Cheryl	Churchwell	Calvary South Denver	Littleton
Marcia	Mains	BRAVE Church	Englewood
Maureen	Davis	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Tyson	Anderson	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Susan	DeForest	Home	Littleton
Diana	Harder	Mission hills	Littleton
Vicki	Fraker	New Life Christian Center	Yuma
Lola	Mathias	Westminster Calvary	Westminster
Justin	McCaslin	Victory Life Church, Woodland Park	Woodland Park
Bryan	Norman	Epiphany Anglican Fellowship	Longmont
Jerry	McClure	Family Worship Center	Pueblo
Tamra	Axworthy	Pinecrest	Parker
Amy	Miller	Fire Generation Christian family Church	Aurora
Tosha	Benjamin	Calvary	Rye
Cassie	Yanker	Calvary worship center	Colorado Springs
Katherine	Siegel	NC3	Lucerne
Cindy	Sidwell	Fire Generation Christian Family Church	Aurora
Theophilus	Aryeetey	Rez	Loveland
Kiley	VonBonn	St Joan of Arc	Arvada
Kristoffer	Jackson	St Joan of Arc	Arvada
Rachel	Jackson	St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church	Arvada
Theresa	Calabrese	Free Life Church	Burlington
Kristi	Craig	Free Life church	Burlington
James	Duffield		Beulah
Paula	Todisco	Summit church Denver	Denver
Emily	Bohn	Free Life Church	COLBY
JEANNE	WILSON	Free Life Church	Burlington
Eric	Kilborn	Victory Life Ministries	Pueblo
Mark	Griego		



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Patricia	Chavez	His love fellowship	Denver
Deb	Botello	Vintage church	Fort Collins
Denna	Gilbert	Strasburg Community	Strasburg
Larry	McKnight	Agape Fellowship, Inc. / dba: Joyland Jefferson avenue united Methodist church	Colorado Springs
Michelle	Bickford	Living Water Church	What ridge
Susan	Rainey	St. Mary's of Littleton	Aurora
Luke	Reetz	New Life Church	Littleton
Eric	Wilbur	Cherryhills Community Church	Colorado Springs
Kemie	Houston	Tabernacle With Yeshua	Highlands Ranch
Wendy	Allen	First Assembly	Colorado Springs
Ryan	Scofield	Restoration Church	Greeley
Rachel	Fasolini	Truth Church Calvary	Loveland
KARA	MEYER	St. Peter's Catholic church	Littleton
Jacquelyn	Rafferty	Jubilee fellowship Church	Monument
Kevin	Vogel	Discovery	Lone Tree
Clareese	Hildenbrand	Southeast Christian	Colorado Springs
Christopher	Hatton	Home Church	Parker
Monica	Jones	New Life Downtown	Littleton
Nicole	Jolyn	Unaffiliated	Colorado Springs
Barbara	Timock	Woodmen Valley Chapel	Pueblo
Jill	Farmer	Radiant Church	Colorado Springs
Caydee	Bell	Black Forest Chapel	Colorado Springs
Kelly	Marchbank	Freedom Church	Colorado Springs
Josue	Ibarra	Freedom Church	Woodland Park
Joe	Swearingin	Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church	Woodland Park
Michelle	Cure	Church for All Nations	Windsor
Jennifer	Gallegos	Living Water Church	Colorado Springs
Cheri	Dosh	Mountain Springs	Aurora
Kathleen	Rahn	St John's Lutheran	Colorado Springs
Kellie	Manygoats	New Covenant Church	Canon city
Kelly	McCurley	JFC	Larkspur
Jean	Porter	New wine fellowship	Lonetree
Jan	Stennett		Colorado Springs



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COALITION

Katie	Howe	Springs Church	Colorado Springs
David	Freehling	First Presbyterian	Colorado Springs
Michael	Pomponio	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Denver
Justin	Ensinger	EFC	Canon City
Tod	Hewitt	Bennett Christian Fellowship	Bennett
Terry	Thomas	Lifting Up JESUS Church	Colorado Springs
Carol	Holman	Saint Paul the Apostle	Pueblo West
Tom	Shaw	23 Ave Church	Greeley
Nathan	Piotrowski	Calvary Church Monument	Monument
Lori	Schnekenburger	Victory World Outreach	Fountain
Tashiana	Jahnke	Calvary Worship Center	Colorado Springs
Renee	Winter	Fount of Life Lutheran Church	Colorado Springs
Jeffrey A	Porter	JFC	Aurora
Elizabeth	Aikin	Radiant Church	Colorado Springs
Renee	York	Red Rocks	Highlands ranch
Donna	LaBelle	Etz Khayim	Colorado Springs
Brianna	Mattson	Freedom Church	Woodland Park
Myrtle	Foster-Ortiz	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Sarah	Carter	Miller Street church of Christ	Wheat Ridge
Rachel	Lamb	Mary Help of Christians	Colorado Springs
Janet	Elliott	Cherry Hills Community Church	Aurora
Tiffany	Jorgenson	New Life Church	COLORADO SPRINGS
Joshua	Pacheco	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Caitlin	Vallejo	Grace Chapel	Castle Rock
Sarah	Rotea	New Life Church	Colorado Springs
Noah	Brainard	Northeast Bible Church	Colorado Springs
Jennifer	Pantazes	Jubilee Fellowship Church	Lone Tree
Tammy	Dahle	Heritage Church	Grand Junction
Anthony	Hogans	Reverb	Parker
Sherry	Herrington	Red Ricks Church	Lakewood
Andrya	Towns	Grace	Salida
Taphath	Canon	Sanctuary Church	Colorado Springs
Adrienne	Beamesderfer	Olive Tree	Colorado Springs



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Patti	Osborne	Foursquare Gospel	Colorado Springs
Danielle	StJohn	Impact Christian Church	Woodland park
Gregory	McLaughlin	Grace Chapel of Castle Rock	Castle Rock
Misty	Norman	Victory Life Church	Woodland Park
Tanya	Brandorff	Grace chapel	Castle Rock
Kaylee	Durham	Victory Life woodland park Colorado	Colorado Springs
Clarence	Felzien	Oasis Christian Church	Pueblo West
Pat	Winn	Redeemed Ones Jail Prison Ministry, Inc	Aurora
Vernell	Murphy	Issues of Life Church Ministries	Colorado Springs
Paul	Engstrom	Pueblo First Church of the Nazarene	Pueblo
Ty	Hardin	Colorado Christian Fellowship	Aurora
Norma	Andersen	Mill City	Ft Collins
Robin	Smith	FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD	Colorado Springs
Jenny	Kalvelage	New Life Church	Colorado Springs
Gail	Voss	United Methodist Church in Eads	Eads
Steven	Nisenoff	Fuel	Monument
Robert	Carman	Victory Life Church	Colorado Springs
Linda M	Junco	River Rock	Woodland Park
Skye	Hafferkamp	Vista Grande Baptist	Colorado Springs
Dana	Custer	Alamosa Christian Church	Alamosa
Wiley	Work	Living Covenant Fellowship	Lamar
Joel	Daily	Charis Family Church	Woodland Park
Sandra	Watkins	Charis Christian Center	Colorado Springs
Scott	Carranza	Iglesia Gracia y Vida	Denver
Jeanette	Relaford	Fountain Calvary	Colorado Springs
Cherry	Shephard	Remnant International Ministries	COLORADO SPRINGS
Charlene	Stephenson	River Church	Durango
Margaret	Knorowski	Living Water Church	Aurora
Valerie	McKinney	First Church of God	La Junta
Melanie	Smith	Catalyst + Royal Gorge Vineyard	Canon City
Marsha	Vilhauer	At Paul's Lutheran	Durango
Judith	Collins	Charis Christian Center	Colorado Springs
Sharon	Gudmunson	Discovery church Colorado	Colorado Springs





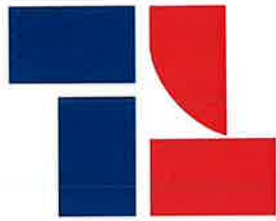
TRUTH & LIBERTY  
COALITION

Kathleen	Gatt	Calvary Worship Center	Colorado Springs
Cheri	Dosh	Faith Presbyterian	Aurora
Colleen	Leming	Faith Presbyterian Church	Aurora
Denise	Pagard	Cherry Hills Community Church	Highlands Ranch
Pricella	Lua	Grace and faith church	Woodland Park
Gordon	Mueller	Believers' Victory International Church	Carson
Ida	Hoffman	Calvary Fellowship Fountain Valley	Colorado Springs
Christine	Malloy-Brooks	Calvary Fellowship Fountain Valley	Colorado Springs
Trish	meza	Calvary Fellowship Fountain Valley	Colorado Springs
Donald	Holman	Saint Paul the Apostle	Pueblo West
Clarence	Felzien	Oasis Christian Church	Pueblo West
Mary	Ramos	DCC	Colo Spgs
Hugo	Guerra	ON3D Ministries	Commerce city
NORMAND	BARON	Rez Church, Loveland	LOVELAND
Paula	Luce	Lake George Bible Church	Lake George
Courtney	Fischer	Church for all nations	Colorado Springs
Arturo	Ayala	Bridgeway Church	Denver
Theresa	Notville	Calvary Worship Center	Colorado Springs
Rebecca	Mancuso	Eastern hills	Centennial
Catherine	Vogel	Jubilee Fellowship Church	Lonetree
Thetesa	Guerrero	Oasis church	Denver
Steve	Cummings	Morning Star Community Church	Red Feather Lakes
Laura	Baynard	Northglen Christian church	Thornton
Mike	Routt	Redemption Hill Church	Colorado Springs
Thomas	Harrington	Living River Church	Lafayette
Robert	Shibley	Central SDA Church	Colorado Springs
mark	james	Woodman Valley	Colorado Springs
Dave	Hoffman	Morning Star Community Church	LIVERMORE
Chris	Wolfe	Rock AG Church	Thornton
Karin	Fillhart	Shine Church	Castle Rock
Debbie	Carman	Victory Life Church	Colorado Springs
Sarie	Joubert	Church for all Nations	Colorado Springs
Nancy	Comstock	Charis Christian Center	Colorado Springs



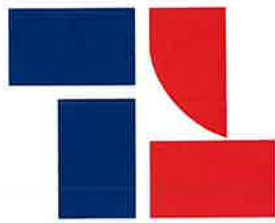
TRUTH & LIBERTY  
COALITION

Angela	Trunkenbolz	Northern Hills	Brighton
Neil	Trunkenbolz	Calvary Aurora	Brighton
Art	Germann	Immanuel Lutheran	Loveland
Daniel	Wood	New Life	Manitou Springs
Matthew	Spencer	Christ Church International	Longmont
Doug	Burdette	Morning Star Community Church	Red Feather Lakes
Elisha	Pettit	Bridgeway Church Denver	Denver
Jeff	Anderson	International Bible Conference	Colorado Springs
Susana	Worsley	Castle Rock Casa de Oracion	Larkspur
STEPHANIE	JOHNSON	Charis Christian Center	COLORADO SPRINGS
Matthew	Bisque	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Mark	Laslo	Brave	Cherry Hills Village
Merrilee	Bisque	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Nancy	Doty	St. Vincent de Paul	Denver
Cherri	Campbell	Victorious Faith International Church	Castle Rock
Michelle	Morgan	Michelle Morgan	Centennial
Sandy	Blanchard	BridgeWay Church	Denver
Rick	McFarland	River Rock Church	Colorado Springs
Kelvin	Rich	AWMI	Woodland Park
Bridget	Henry	St Thomas More Catholic	Centennial
Kassi	Solis	Faith Life Fellowship	Denver
Bryan	Vogt	Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Loveland
Scott	Callahan	Abiding Love Lutheran Church	Loveland
Christopher	MacLaird	God's Country Cowboy Church	Loveland
Joanne	Sutley	Faith Life Fellowship	Littleton
Chris	Sutley	Faith Life Fellowship	Littleton
Mike	Canaday	Final Quest Ministries	Castle Rock
Laura	Morton	The Pearl Church	Denver
Carlos	Calandrelis	Iglesia Mosaico Nuevo Renacer	Aurora
Tracy	Morton	The Pearl Church	Denver
Charles	Mummert	Westmore West	Lakewood
Barbara	Samuels	Word of life Christian center	Lone tree
Sara	Proctor	The Rock	Castle Rock



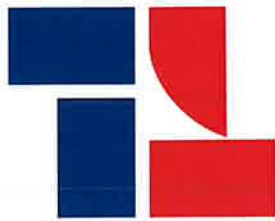
TRUTH & LIBERTY  
COALITION

Louis	Lopez	Southwest Assembly of God	Lakewood
Amy	Everette	Colorado Prays	Parker
David	Clair	Square One Ministries	Westminster
Lorin	Guilkey III	Hope and Grace Fellowship	Florissant, co
Wilfred	Cordova	Kingdom Precept Center	Commerce city
Helen	Strait	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Tammy	Splechter	CFAN	Colorado Springs
Melanie	Allbaugh	The Pearl Church	Denver
Savannah	Splechter	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Steven	Splechter	Body of Christ	Colorado Springs
Ben	Johnson	Redeemer's Heart Church	Colorado Springs
Tina	Kahn	The Pearl Church	Denver
Erin	Wolberg	The Rock	Castle Rock
Lisa	Miller	Wellspring	Englewood
Linda	Crespin	Castle rock Bible church	Castle rock Colorado
Valerie	Veladquez	Chatfield Christian	Littleton
David	Meek	Glad Tidings Church	GREELEY
Greg	Strom	Victory life church	Colorado Springs
Lesley	Tucker	The Pearl Church	Highlands Ranch
Bliss	Kelley	All Churches	Lone Tree
Bruce	Miller	Wellspring	Englewood
Jay	Johnson	Church For All Nations	Morgan Hill
Jessica	Petramala	Different churches	Denver
Shannon	Clark	The Pearl Church	Denver
Rebecca	Edgar	Legacy Chapel	Centennial
Patrick	Olearnick	The Pearl Church	Denver
Rose	Zarling	Authentic life church	Highlands ranch
Kathy	Simon	Authentic Life Church	Littleton
DLana	Loos	The Pearl Church	Denver
Mary	Walter	Our Lady of the Valley	Windsor
Sandra	Olearnick	The Pearl Church	Denver
Jo Ann	Atherton	Sunrise International	Longmont
Jennifer	Lopez	Church in the City Beth Abraham	Denver



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COALITION

Chelsea	Raphael	Rock Family Church	Colorado Springs
Brian	Winsor	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Sheila	Winsor	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
David	Alarid	Church for all Nations	Colorado Springs
Sue	Behrman	CFAN	Buena Vista
Lorraine	Alarid	Church For All Nation	Colorado Springs
Michael	Carrigan	Red Rocks Church	Littleton
Valerie	Lopez	Southwest Assembly of God	Lakewood
Bryan	Thompson	Rock A/G church	Thornton
Katherine	Reeves	Trypraying Colorado	Longmont
Greg	Philson	New Life Bible Church	Pueblo
Anne	Porter	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Philip	White	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Bob	Reeves	Trypraying Colorado	Longmont
Jennifer	Risper	Our lady of Loreto	Centennial
Gidget	Ternet	Our Lady of Loreto	Foxfield
Severiano	Carbajal	Red Rocks Church	Arvada
Marcia	Boom	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Janet	Philson	New Life Bible Church	Pueblo
Sarah	McAdam	Christ on the Mountain	Lakewood
Katrina	Karchner	Southeast Christian Church	Parker
James	Crandall	First Assembly of God	La Junta
Paula	Haight	GRACE	Arvada
Lori	Chisholm	New Freedom Outreach Center	Berthoud
Leslie	Shaffer	Red rocks	Arvada
Jheyson	Giraldo	Aposento Alto, UPCI	Aurora
crystal	cobb	Restoration Messianic Fellowship	Gunnison
Julie	Weathers	Faith Bible Chaple	Arvada
Ave Maria	Romine	Springs Reformed Church	Colorado Springs
Victoria	Green	St. Peter and Paul	Wheat Ridge
Timothy	Wheeless	Cross Family Church	Parker
Deborah	Singer	Bridgeway Church	Denver
Lauren	Hollington	Ave Maria	Parker



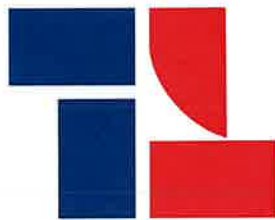
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COALITION

Mark	Spencer	Christ Church International	Longmont
Lauren	Droege	Holy Name Catholic Church	Denver
Brenda	Long	Grace Church of Arvada	Arvada
Larry G	Murray	Westmore West Church of GOD	Lakewood
Bill	Wisener	Oasis Of Hope	Limon
Terry	Kreuger	Redemption City Church	Westminster
Bryan	Lee	Boost Church	Northglenn
Linsey	Haight	Grace Church of Arvada	Arvada
Ashley	Ziemer	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Jill	Cullis	BridgeWay	Aurora
Ryan	McAdams	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Julie	Cetuk	Our Lady of Lourdes	Denver
Joe	Cetuk	Our Lady of Lourdes	Denver
Filip	Von Reiche	Redemption Hills Church	Littleton
Joe & Stephanie	DeMott	Refiners Fire	Commerce City
Dennis	Bolitho	Epiphany Anglican Fellowship	Longmont
Candace	Coates	The Rock	Castle Rock
Scotty	Vaughn	Church on the Ranch	Colorado Springs
Robert	Pierson	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Tyler	Tracey	St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church	Littleton
Dan	Bisque	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Brenda	Bisque	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Jena	Rutan	The Rock Church	Castle Rock
Dene	Stevenson	Word of Life Christian Center	Lone Tree
Monica	Feldes	Ave Maria Catholic Parish	Parker
Bruce	Conover	Berthoud Family Church	Berthoud
Roger	Anghis	Prevailing Word Ministries	Centennial
Ethel	LeResche	Resurrection Anglican Fellowship	Greenwood Village
Rick	Long	Grace church of Arvada	Arvada
Timothy	Stuehmeyer	Ray of Hope	Colorado Springs
Amos	Michael	The Ingathering	Denver
Kathy	Larson	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Willa	Brook	Encounter Church	Centennial



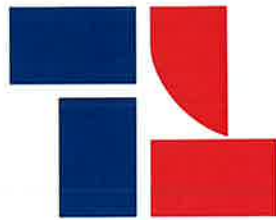
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Lynne	Pasion	Ave Maria Catholic Parish	Parker
Karen	Juliano	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Joseph	Ramos	Grace Church	Arvada
Paige	Ramos	Grace Church	Arvada
Jared	Melius	Mt. Zion Lutheran Church	Denver
Staci	Brown	Red Rocks	Arvada
Sharon	Boileau	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Tirzah	Sperger	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Judy	Nelson	Word of Life Christian Center	Lone Tree
Heather	Tokifuji	Living way fellowship	Highlands ranch
Jennie	Gomez	Faith Christian	Arvada
Angelique	Matthews	Church for All Nations	Colorado Springs
Lizzy	Helfrich	The Barn	Aurora
Mark	Cowart	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Gerald	Schnackenberg	Epiphany Anglican Fellowship	Longmont
Donnie	Bennett	New Creation Church	Longmont
Janae	Martinez	Storyline Fellowship	Arvada
Armaan	Kelly	Victory Life Church	Colorado Springs
Thomas	Wurtz	Our Lady of Fatima	Lakewood
Neil	Suhr	The Barn Aurora	Aurora
Kerry	Diener	St Mark	Highlands Ranch
Jennifer	Reed	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Jean	Dembowski	Ave Maria Church	Parker
Mike	Davis	Rocky Mountain Family Church	Pueblo
Traci	Willhite	Grace Church of Arvada	ARVADA
Steven	Owings	Catch The Fire Boulder	Lafayette
Michael	Moran	New Life Family Worship Center	Montrose
Gary	Van Gorp	Two Rivers Fellowship	Greeley
Lori	Frasier	All Souls Catholic	Englewood
Chad	Nelson	Rock Church	Thornton
Kathryn	Schrameyer	Ave Maria Catholic Parish	Parker
JP	Grier	Sentinels for Christ	Erie
Stanley	Lightfoot	Rustic Hills Baptist Church	Colorado Springs



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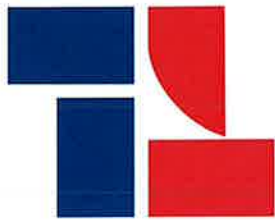
Michael	Huelsing	St. Mark's Catholic Church	Highlands Ranch
Tara	Peterson	Freedom Church	Woodland Park
Beth	Revis	Red Rocks Church and Faith Bible Chapel	Littleton
Laura	Strait	Faith Bible Chapel	Arvada
Brian	Helfrich	The Barn	Aurora
Shawn	Savage	Freedom Church	Woodland Park
Teresa	Cheek	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Michael	White	Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church	Aurora
Stephanie	Massee	Parker Bible Church	Parker
Nicole	Casimes	Freedom Church Co	Woodland Park
Nicholas	Marrujo	Rock AG Church	Thornton
Yolanda	White	Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church	Aurora
Kahl	Forington	Parker Bible Church	Parker
Hannah	Yaksich	The Jesus church	Colorado Springs
Jessica	Craig	The Harvest	Aurora
Brandon	Kolb	City On The Hill	Boulder
Alisha	Hablutzel	The Harvest	Thornton
Susan	Walden	Freedom	Strasburg
Mary	Tappe	St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church	Wheat Ridge
Cheri	Chandler	The Harvest	Federal Heights
Denise	Ketter	Ave Maria	Parker
Dylan	Hughes	River rock church	Colorado Springs
Janice	Madigan	Ave Maria Catholic Church	Parker
Carlie	Terradez	Global Church Family	Colorado Springs
Jessica	Mills	Church For All Nations	Colorado Springs
Gary	Rolando	Westminster Calvary	Westminster
Maria	Carpenter	Legacy Church	Woodland Park
Steven	Grant	Destiny Christian Center	Greeley
Bob	Stennett	New Wine Fellowship	Colorado Springs
Nikki	Bryan	Sanctuary	Colorado Springs
Bertha	MURPHY	Appointed Seed Ministry	Denver
Ian	Ebersole	Westminster Calvary	Westminster
Karl	Nitta	Westminster Calvary	Westminster



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Trey	Curry	Westminster Calvary	Westminster
Devin	Ells	Grace and Faith Bible Church of	Woodland Park
Mike	Mills	Woodland Park	Colorado Springs
Kim	Varnadore	Church for all nations	Broomfield
Joshua	Villanueva	Highway Community	Woodland Park
Stephen R.	Klemark	Freedom Church	Colorado Springs
Caleb	Braun	River Rock Church	Woodland Park
Sean	Chandler	Grace and Faith Bible Church of	Federal Heights
Paul	Rhode	Woodland Park	Lafayette
Jeff	Cramer	The Harvest	Westminster
Emily	Jacobs	Eternal Savior Lutheran Church	Woodland Park
Loren	Sandford	Westminster Calvary	Denver
RexAnne	Nutt	Grace and Faith Bible Church of	Colorado Springs
Casey	Harmon	Woodland Park	Broomfield
Robin	Westhafer	New Song Church and Ministries	Thornton
Sandy	Schlappe	Church For All Nations	Westminster
Janet	OCallaghan	Highway Community Church	Denver
John	Serio	The harvest	Colorado Springs
Richard	Harris	Highway Community church	Woodland Park
David	Riffel	Risen Christ	Colorado Springs
Luis	Cruzado	Springs Journey Church	Denver
Michael	Popovich	Grace and Faith Bible Church	Colorado Springs
		Church For All Nations	
		Denver Calvary Chapel	
		Freedom Ministries	





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<sup>i</sup> Your conclusion that corporate worship of God is nonessential is contrary to our faith. According to Scripture, believers in Jesus Christ are one body in Him, having partaken of One Spirit, and that just as the members of a human body provide critical functions necessary to the health and life of that body, so too are we as members of the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The Lord Jesus Himself promised, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20. God’s Word commands us to engage in *corporate and public* prayer (1 Timothy 2:1), teaching and preaching (2 Timothy 4:2, Colossians 3:16), reading of scripture (1 Timothy 4:13), baptism (Matthew 28:18-20), the Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 11:27-4) and the admonishment of one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19). While we appreciate the suggestion in your orders that we conduct online services, a “virtual” setting is no substitute for in-person community.

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May 15, 2020

Rev. Mark Cowart  
Senior Pastor  
Church for All Nations  
6540 Templeton Gap Road  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80922

Re: Re-opening the Church for Worship

Dear Pastor Cowart,

Notwithstanding Colorado's Safer at Home order, constitutional protections make it lawful for churches in Colorado to reopen especially if they comply with Colorado's Social Distancing Requirements. Let me explain.

On May 8, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment ("CDPHE") issued its Second Amended Public Health Order 20-28 entitled "Safer at Home" ("PHO"). This PHO prohibits public and private gatherings of more than ten individuals. (PHO, ¶ I(C)). It also exempts over 100 types of entities from its requirements for numerous secular reasons. There are so many exemptions it takes eighteen pages to list them. Among those exempted are scores of "critical businesses" including oil and gas drillers, liquor stores, firearms stores, and marijuana dispensaries. The only condition for their exemption is that they comply with the PHO's Social Distancing Requirements. (*Id.*, Appendix F).

There are five Social Distancing Requirements defined in the PHO:

1. "[I]ndividuals shall maintain at least a six-foot distance from other individuals";<sup>1</sup>
2. Individuals should "wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or us[e] hand sanitizer";
3. Individuals should cover coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);

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<sup>1</sup>I presume that this would not apply to individuals who come to church from a common household.

4. The organization should “regularly clean high-touch surfaces”; and
5. Individuals should “not shake hands.”

(PHO at 12, ¶ N).

The PHO also permits counties to request a variance when “transmission [of the coronavirus] is at a low level” so that those counties may “tailor social distancing policies to local conditions, in order to promote community wellness and economic stability.” (*Id.*, Appendix G).

Churches, synagogues, and mosques are not eligible for any of these many exemptions or for this variance. Thus, the PHO with its “no-gathering-beyond-ten-persons” rule effectively bans religious worship for all but the tiniest of congregations while exempting scores of organizations with comparable or greater risks of infection.

As you and other Colorado pastors note in your letter to Colorado Governor Jared Polis and CDPHE Executive Director Jill Ryan, the gathering of faith communities for worship is a core ecclesiastical function. It is required by the commandment to keep holy the Sabbath and commended by the New Testament. (*See* Ex. 20:8-11; Dt. 5:12-15; Heb. 10:22-24). One Christian writer has well-described the centrality of worship for human beings:

[M]an alone...is to respond to God’s blessing with his blessing. . . . All rational, spiritual and other qualities of man, distinguishing him from other creatures, have their focus and ultimate fulfillment in this capacity to bless God, to know, so to speak, the meaning of the thirst and hunger that constitutes his life. ‘*Homo sapiens*’, ‘*homo faber*’. . . yes, but first of all, ‘*homo adorans*’. The first and basic definition of man is that he . . . stands at the center of the world and unifies it in his act of blessing God, of both receiving the world from God and offering it to God.

Alexander Schmemmann, *FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD*, 14-15 (2002). Thus, the burden on the exercise of religion and the encroachment on the autonomy of the Church occasioned by the Safer at Home Order is incalculable.

Before the Safer at Home Order, Colorado had a long tradition of protecting the right to worship. Its Bill of Rights states that “[t]he free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination, shall forever hereafter be guaranteed.” Colo. Const. art. II, §4. Colorado has adopted special statutes further protecting the right to worship--whether it be in one’s home, Colo. Rev. Stat. § 29-1-1202 (Freedom to Gather and Worship Act); in a service

setting for the developmentally disabled, *id.* § 25.5-10-222; or in prison, *id.* §§ 17-42-101, 17-42-102. *See also Town of Foxfield v. Archdiocese of Denver*, 148 P.3d 339, 346-47) (Colo. App. 2006) (parking ordinance designed to frustrate start-up parish’s worship and other gatherings must pass strict scrutiny under Free Exercise and other federal constitutional protections).

While the PHO is also problematic, unlawful, or unconstitutional under the First Amendment Doctrine of Church Autonomy, the First Amendment Free Speech and Assembly Clauses, and the First Amendment Right of Association, my discussion below focuses on its clear unconstitutionality under the First Amendment Free Exercise Clause.

It is beyond cavil that the PHO burdens the exercise of religion. When religious exercise is burdened, the Free Exercise “cases establish . . . that a law that is neutral and of general applicability need not be justified by a compelling governmental interest.” *Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City Hialeah*, 508 U.S. 520, 531 (1993). On the other hand, when the law provides categorical exemptions for secular reasons while refusing to do so for a religious reason, it “must undergo the most rigorous of scrutiny[, *i.e.*,] it must advance interests of the highest order and must be narrowly tailored in pursuit of those interests.” *Id.* at 546 (internal quotation omitted).

Thus, for example, when the Newark Police Department forbade its officers from having beards except for medical reasons and, thereafter, refused an exemption for Muslim officers required by their faith to grow beards, the Second Circuit held that the “no beard” rule was not generally applicable and subjected it to strict scrutiny. *Fraternal Order of Police Newark Lodge No. 12 v. City of Newark*, 170 F.3d 359, 365 (3d Cir. 1999). Strict scrutiny applies when “when the government . . . creates a categorical exemption for individuals with a secular objection but not for individuals with a religious objection.” *Id.*

Just a few days ago, the Sixth Circuit applied these principles against the Kentucky Governor’s COVID-19 orders. Those orders effectively outlawed in person religious services, but they—like Colorado’s PHO—permitted gatherings for over 100 types of secular organizations. *Roberts v. Neace*, \_\_\_ F.3d \_\_\_, 2020 WL 2316679 \*1 (6th Cir. 2020). The Sixth Circuit held that, with so many categorical exceptions, the orders were not generally applicable. *Id.* at \*3. It reasoned:

[T]he Church and its congregants just want to be treated equally. They don’t seek to insulate themselves from the [State’s] general public health guidelines. They simply wish to incorporate them into their worship services. They are willing to practice social distancing. They are willing to follow any hygiene requirements. . . . The Governor has offered no good reason for refusing to trust the congregants

who promise to use care in worship in just the same way it trusts accountants,

lawyers, and laundromat workers to do the same.

Come to think of it, aren't the two groups of people often the *same people*—going to work on one day and going to worship on another? How can the same person be trusted to comply with social-distancing and other health guidelines in secular settings but not be trusted to do the same in religious settings? The distinction defies explanation, or at least the Governor has not provided one.

*Id.* at \*3.<sup>2</sup>

The Sixth Circuit also found that Kentucky could not satisfy the second prong of the strict scrutiny test, to wit: that the State, when imposing its regulation on religious organizations, must employ the least restrictive means to serve its laudable goals. It explained: “There are plenty of less restrictive ways to address these public-health issues. Why not insist that the congregants adhere to social-distancing and other health requirements and leave it at that—just as the Governor has done for comparable secular activities?” *Id.* at \*4.

You and the other pastors signing the letter to Governor Polis and Ms. Ryan have committed your best efforts to comply with the State’s Social Distancing Requirements. Thus, I agree with the conclusion you and the other Colorado pastors made in that letter: if your “religious freedom means anything, it means that the State must treat churches at least as well as it does stores for guns, liquor, and marijuana.”

Sincerely yours,



L. Martin Nussbaum

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<sup>2</sup> It is also worth noting that the United States Department of Justice recently filed a Statement of Interest in a Virginia case where a church is challenging an order similar to Colorado’s Safer at Home Order. It argued, similar to the analysis here, that “[in] prohibiting church services or other religious gatherings that exceed ten people, despite permitting various other gatherings that may result from secular activities, the [State’s] orders appear, at least, not to be generally applicable.” *Lighthouse Fellowship Church v. Northam* (No. 2:20-cv-00204) United States Statement of Interest (May 3, 2020).