



Parklawn

Assembly of God

September 2, 2021

Greetings PAOG Family,

I pray that this letter finds you well and in faith. We are enduring socially and culturally tumultuous times. It can be overwhelming at times. But, praise God that we all can run to the Rock that is “higher than I”! (Psalm 61:2)

In recent weeks various institutions and businesses have begun to mandate vaccinations for their employees amid the rapid spread of the COVID-19 Delta Variant. The spate of available information or the lack thereof has contributed to much consternation among citizens. Many in the body of Christ believe they’ve arrived at a unique juxtaposition regarding their pursuit of good health and their faith convictions. As such, I am aware that in response to workplace vaccination mandates, some believers are seeking *religious exemption* in order to remain true to their convictions. I understand and can appreciate the sensitive nature of that position.

Previously, I articulated a neutral position regarding vaccination. To my mind, it is a personal decision that one must make for themselves and their family with good information, wise counsel, and most importantly, the guidance of Holy Spirit.

What About the Assemblies of God?

The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan District has articulated a neutral position as well. The Assemblies of God believes that vaccination is the personal choice of individuals. Anyone can choose to declare that they refuse vaccination based on their personal convictions. Parklawn will follow this guidance.

In conclusion, Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) encourages us to “trust in the Lord with all of our heart and lean not to our own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all thy ways, and He will direct thy paths.” This is what I continue to do. This is what I urge all kingdom believers to do.

Please observe the scriptures below for prayer and meditation:

- **Psalm 17:6 (NLT)** I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray.
- **Psalm 18:6 (NLT)** But in my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears.
- **Psalm 86:3 (NLT)** Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am calling on you constantly.
- **Psalm 120:1 (NIV)** I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me.
- **Isaiah 65:24 (NIV)** Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

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- **James 1:5-6 (NIV)** If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact the church office at 414-442-7411 or email at info@parklawnag.org.

Still believing,

Marcus L. Arrington, Ed.D.
Senior Pastor

Special Note: *Parklawn Assembly of God (PAOG) cannot prevent any member from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID19 or its variants while participating in church services on the premises. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to participate in the services and/or enter PAOG premises, you may be exposing yourself to and/or increasing your risk of contracting or spreading COVID19. Given the facts noted above, PAOG is taking great measures to ensure that we minimize the risk of spreading COVID19, utilizing the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines. We have also consulted with the local City of Milwaukee Public Health Officials on best practices for operations such as ours. With that said, it is imperative that each member follows the procedural guidelines set forth by the PAOG Senior Pastor and Leadership Team. Failure to follow posted guidelines and procedures may result in you being asked to leave the premises. We care too much to allow anyone to be placed at risk any further than the uncertainty that already exists. Thanks very much for your cooperation.*