

STANDARD MEDIA RELEASE

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The logo for Springs Church features the word "SPRINGS" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "CHURCH" is written in a smaller, all-caps, black, sans-serif font with wide letter spacing.

RELEASE DATE:

December 5, 2020

WE AT SPRINGS CHURCH CALL UPON THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT TO REINSTITUTE SAFE DRIVE-IN CHURCH WHILE CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Winnipeg, MB (December 5) — SPRINGS CHURCH – Leon Fontaine, Senior Pastor, today released the following statement regarding the ruling of the Manitoba Court to prevent Manitobans from practicing their faith while remaining in their cars with their windows rolled up.

The heart of Springs Church has always been a desire to love and better our community. While this year has brought new challenges to us, this commitment remains.

COVID-19 poses a real challenge to our community. This is why we have complied with every public health measure that the government of Manitoba has set upon us.

The Government of Manitoba has made rules around what gatherings can and can't happen due to COVID-19. Today the Chief Justice interpreted these rules to mean that we cannot hold drive-in church services, even if everyone stays in their cars with the windows rolled up. This was our first step to simply keep this weekend's drive-in services open.

It's important to understand that the Chief Justice is only interpreting rules that elected politicians have made. Even though he said that the rules were unclear and acknowledged scientific evidence that COVID-19 is not likely to be transmitted between cars with windows rolled up. The Chief Justice does not have the power to change the legislation, only interpret them.

As such, we are asking you, our community, to do a few things:

1) Continue to follow the rules related to COVID-19. For now, this means not coming to Springs for a drive-in service this Saturday or Sunday. Being good citizens means respecting laws.

2) We are asking you to respectfully contact your elected politicians. We will communicate with you in that regard in the coming days. It is my opinion that there is an opportunity here to enhance the rules around gatherings so that drive-in church services and other innovative solutions can safely occur. The right to practice faith during these challenging times is vital. I know that with the united voice of our community, regardless of your faith, we can show our elected politicians that they can be innovative, keeping COVID-19 measures in place, while looking for ways to safely bolster the spirit of our community and protect Canadian Charter rights.

3) We need to love one another. We know that our community is desperately struggling with the effects of fear, isolation and job losses that endless lockdowns have brought. Now, more than ever, we need to pray for each other – for those in the midst of health, financial, relational, and mental health emergencies – and take the time to virtually reach out and make sure we are all well.

4) I ask you to pray for us and our team as we take the next steps on this journey. We have strategies and will be coming to you with more details in the coming days. We're not done yet.

Spring Church is a welcoming, accepting place. We are proud to unite in love for our community and for our province.

God bless you and keep you.

For more information:

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