

Vaccine Statement
MCC Council of Elders

The Metropolitan Community Churches Council of Elders encourages all people to approach health and wellness as a community effort. We acknowledge that not everyone is choosing to or is able to be vaccinated. The vaccines have been determined safe and effective by medical professionals for most people in most age groups. MCC's experience with viruses, including HIV/AIDS, moves us to encourage one another to listen to leading public health advice regarding Covid-19, including washing hands, keeping physical distance, and participating in vaccination programs.

We note with concern that Christianity has sometimes been cited to justify ignoring health guidance. This is based on an individualistic misunderstanding of Christian "freedom." Freedom in Christ is not a pretext for asserting personal autonomy, but rather the ability to be a loving member of a flourishing community. As Paul said in Galatians 5:13-15 (The Message Paraphrase) *"It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?"*

In a time of pandemic, we have seen the inequitable distribution of resources across the world and we call for a fairer society that enables vaccines to be available to all. We believe we are all in this together and that the vaccines help us to protect one another.

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