

EXHIBIT P

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF IDAHO**

SCOTT HERNDON, REV. JOSH JONES,)
REV. MICHAEL GULOTTA, REV. TIM)
REMINGTON, GABRIEL RENCH,)
CHRIS SCHUELER, AND DON MARTIN)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

Case No. 2:20-CV-00205

BRADLEY JAY LITTLE, in his official)
capacity as Governor of Idaho, and)
DAVE JEPPESEN, in his official capacity)
as the Director of the Idaho Department of)
Health and Welfare,)

Defendants.)

DECLARATION OF REV. PAUL D. VAN NOY

I, Paul Van Noy, am an adult, under no disability, and hereby declare the following:

1. I am pastor of Candlelight Christian Fellowship Church in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. I have been a pastor at this church since June 1997.
2. I am also President of the Coeur d’Alene Ministerial Association.
3. My work as pastor at Candlelight Christian Fellowship includes employing over 40 staff persons, ministering to people of all ages, backgrounds, financial positions, and walks of life, assisting in marriage ministries related to preparation and restoration, grief counseling, funeral and memorial services, business development, social and spiritual development, recovery from both

legal pharmaceutical and illegal drug abuse, alcohol addiction, domestic violence, depression, and have served thousands of individuals with essential services both within and without the local church facilities.

4. In addition, I have served our local community as a go-to for our past two city mayors, county commissioners, city council members, and active political servants/candidates within the conservative party throughout Kootenai County.
5. I am competent to testify as to the matters contained herein, I am over the age of 18, and I make this declaration based upon my own personal knowledge, experience, and written and oral conversations I have personally held with state senators, state representatives, our city mayor, the adjoining city mayor, local law enforcement, and several community leaders.
6. My duties as pastor include: Teaching on Sunday mornings, (in person, on-line, and over the radio), Wednesday evenings (online and in person), daily morning devotionals, religious holidays, administering baptisms, administering communion, officiating wedding, funeral, and memorial services, serve in all forms of counseling, ministry to the sick and dying, consoling the grieving and sorrowful, and being physically present with and for church members, function as chief executive officer and as chief financial officer for the corporation.
7. On or about March 25, 2020, the Governor of Idaho issued a “Statewide Stay-Home Order.”
8. On or about April 15, 2020, the Governor amended that Stay-Home Order.

9. On or about May 1, 2020, the Governor issued a statewide Stay Healthy Order.
10. On or about May 16, 2020, the Governor issued a new statewide Stay Healthy Order.
11. I have read both the original and the amended Stay-Home Order and both the May 1 and May 16 Stay Healthy Orders.
12. I have been exceedingly troubled over the fact that the Stay-Home Order excluded churches from the definition of “Essential Business.”
13. I was also concerned that the Stay-Home Order failed to include pastoral duties and church attendance in the definition of “Essential Activities.”
14. Because churches are not considered “Essential,” and my work as a pastor is not considered “Essential Activity,” the Stay-Home Order is understood to forbid me from performing pastor ministry and function. Moreover, the Stay-Home Order has disallowed the congregation I serve from coming to church services, and/or being provided all they expect from their local church’s freedom to exercise their strongly held religious beliefs and right to peaceful assembly. Furthermore, the “Order” prevents the proper administration and reception of the Christian sacraments of baptism and Communion. Generally, the Stay-Home Order, specifically prohibited and violated the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and that of the Idaho State Constitution.
15. Recognizing the aforementioned, I was and am alarmed by the fact that the Governor of Idaho had declared the practice of public Christian worship to be both illegal and punishable throughout the State of Idaho.

16. As a Christian pastor and patriot, I am always willing to observe and obey the governing authorities as required by Holy Scripture found in Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2. However, as a student of law and order, I am likewise aware of the violation of the protected rights each American citizen must retain.
17. It is also my personal belief, as well as the teaching of the Church, that church attendance is an important and a necessary part of the practice of the Christian faith—as declared in the Holy Scriptures Hebrews 10:25.
18. The choice we were forced to make was deciding between obedience to God as related to Hebrews 10:25, where we are told to maintain gatherings as a local assembly, and that of Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2, where we are instructed to obey the civil authorities. This is a decision no Christian should be forced to make as a citizen of the United States of America and resident of the State of Idaho. As a pastor and Christian I am required to obey the Lord. If such a time should develop when I am forced to make a decision between obedience to the Lord or the civil authorities, I must always obey God rather than man.
19. Inasmuch as the governor has begun lifting the Stay-Home Order, and inasmuch as we are now approaching Phase 3 of said order, I am still greatly concerned that a future event of this nature may indeed occur again and this cannot be. The Church and Clergy must be considered “Essential”—even as recently stated by President Donald Trump—and must not be infringed upon by any law or ordinance that fails to comply with the United States Constitution and that of the Constitution of the Great State of Idaho.

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Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Signed this 27th day of May, in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2020, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Van Noy", written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Paul D. Van Noy