

# Guiding Principles for Health Orders



MAC Elders Board,  
October 20, 2021

The goal of these principles is to create a rubric that will guide, inform, and empower the leadership of Morden Alliance Church to make the appropriate decisions on how best to respond to future health orders for the sake of Morden Alliance Church as well as the community in which we live.

Foundational Underpinnings:

## **God is in control, even when we can't see or understand the circumstances.**

- "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (**Gen 50:20**)
- "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (**Rom. 8:28**)
- "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (**Mt 16:18**)
- "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us." (**Acts 17:26-27**)

## **God uses rulers and governments for his purposes. Unless any governing authority asks us to do something that causes us to *disrespect, disobey, or deny* Christ, we should submit to them even when their motives may be questionable.**

- "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." - Jesus (**John 19:11**)
- "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. - The apostle Paul (**Rom 13:1**)

- "Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust." (**I Pet 2:18**)
- Even though paying taxes to Rome might fund a government that was far from God-honouring, Jesus encouraged paying taxes as a practical expression of submission (**Mt 22:15-22**).
- "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour." (**Rom 13:6-7**)
- "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (**I Tim 2:1-4**)

## **Our allegiance is to Jesus' Kingdom over our rights as Canadian citizens.**

- Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." (**John 18:36**)
- We must obey God rather than human beings (**Acts 5:29**)
- Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus. (**Heb 3:1**)

### **Therefore:**

- We acknowledge that COVID-19 is real and poses a real public safety threat.
- We acknowledge the science that vaccines are an effective measure to protect against the severity and spread of COVID-19.
- We acknowledge the strain COVID-19 has put on the health care system and workers and we will seek to operate within the spirit of the law, not looking for loopholes in the health orders.
- We will seek to be above reproach in the implementing of health orders in our ministries and services as witness to our community.
- We will seek to have our ministries as inclusive to as many people as possible.