



Faith Church

To Whom It May Concern,

_____ is a congregant of Faith Church (Assembly of God), a Bible believing network of churches found throughout the Greater Hazleton area here in Northeast Pennsylvania. Our position on vaccinations, like all decisions in life, is to encourage each congregant to seek God's counsel on their decisions through the reading of God's Word (the Bible) and through prayer. When it comes to the COVID-19 vaccination we encourage each person to decide based upon their own spiritual convictions and sincere religious beliefs.

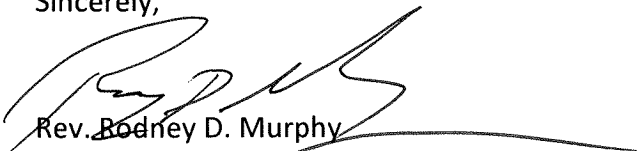
Thankfully we live in a country that allows every individual the fundamental right to religious freedom. Our Supreme Court has given statement that these beliefs "*need not be acceptable, logical, consistent, or comprehensible to others*" to give us our right to practice our beliefs as we determine them to be for our lives. *Thomas v. Rev. Bd. of Ind. Emp. Sec. Div., 450 U.S. 7070, 714(1981).*

_____ is exercising their rights under the Title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Acts of 1964, section 12, to receive religious exemption from any Covid-19 vaccinations due to their genuine and sincere religious beliefs. As an ordained minister, serving as a pastor for over three decades, I can say without a doubt and without question, that this request is being made with great sincerity of personal religious belief and from a deep conviction of the heart.

Our church strongly holds to the Biblical belief of the sanctity of human life. "*Every human life, from conception through death, is therefore to be valued, respected, nurtured, and protected.*" Fetal stem cell lines have been used in the development of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, and fetal stem cell lines have been used in the testing of the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Our belief states "*the practice of cultivating stem cells from the tissue of aborted fetuses (embryonic stem cells) perpetuates the evil of abortion and should be prohibited. Likewise, the cultivation of stem cells from the unused embryos left with fertility clinics raises serious ethical concerns for human life.*" Thus, Faith Church supports its congregant's religious belief that receiving a vaccine that uses aborted fetal cell lines in the development or testing of the vaccine violates their sincerely held religious beliefs regarding the sanctity and protection of pre-born children.

The Bible also states that our bodies function as the temple of the Holy Spirit within us, and that we should glorify God in our body (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*). Our congregant holds to the sanctity of human life and strongly believes that to inject these COVID vaccines would violate these sincerely held religious beliefs and would be a sin against God. Therefore, I strongly support a religious exemption and accommodation for _____.

Sincerely,



Rev. Rodney D. Murphy

Lead Pastor