



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“OUR FAITHFUL COMEBACK” HELPS OVER 200 SMALL FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SET UP VIRTUAL SERVICES AND BUY PPE; DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR FUNDS IS THIS FRIDAY (DEC. 18)

Shelby County, TN – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, Shelby County Commission Chairman Eddie Jones, and County Commissioner Reginald Milton launched the “Our Faithful Comeback” grant fund to assist 170+ small, faith-based organizations set up a virtual option for congregation services. In addition to organizations receiving live-streaming equipment and set up, another 50 small faith-based organizations received a \$1,500 reimbursement for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through the program.

Faith-based organizations, including churches, synagogues, and mosques, with 100 or fewer active members are still eligible to apply for support until December 18, 2020. Qualified applicants may apply by visiting www.shelby.community and clicking the Our Faithful Comeback Grant button. Successful applicants can choose live-streaming equipment and setup or \$1500 PPE reimbursement.

Shelby County Commission Chairman Eddie Jones: “Some residents in Shelby County rely on places of worship for their most critical needs, including food ministries, clothing ministries, and so much more. When places of worship cannot offer virtual services, there is a risk of not having a way to communicate with their members or community. Our Faithful Comeback ensures smaller faith-based organizations stay connected and safe to remain operational during this time.”



Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “Faith-based organizations are where we go to nourish our faith. Also, our community depends on our churches, synagogues, and mosques to serve some of our most vulnerable populations. Several small faith-based organizations in Shelby County have halted in-person services to slow the spread of COVID-19, and have struggled to stay connected to their members. We hope this program puts these organizations in a position to re-connect with their members safely.”

Shelby County Commissioner Reginald Milton: “The impact of COVID-19 has affected many, including faith leaders. It has caused some places of worship to close indefinitely. Although some places have been able to re-create connection through virtual services, smaller places of worship often do not have the finances or know-how to support this. It is an honor to support a grant that will deliver to these organizations the means to connect with their communities.”

Pastor Leon Jones, Jr., The Dwelling Place Christian Church: “I am truly thankful to Shelby County for providing a grant for live-streaming equipment. I had a great experience working with Forever Ready Productions. They are professional and helpful. The process was quick and seamless; I picked up my equipment on Friday and was streaming on Sunday.”

Pastor Josh Germany, New Heights Memphis: “I want to thank Shelby County for this amazing program. The equipment provided through Our Faithful Comeback has transformed the experience of our congregation during this difficult time. This has been such a blessing to our church.”

Lady Beverly Ann Davis, St. Paul Douglass MBC: “Shelby County Government and ProductionOne have been a blessing to our ministry with this grant. I was amazed at how easy it was to set-up and operate the camera. Because of this grant, we have been able to connect with our members online via live-streaming.”

(End of Release)