Dear FAST community-

It is with heavy hearts that we have decided to cancel our Nehemiah Action on March 30th, 2020. After much consideration, we have decided that this is the best option given the most recent developments with COVID19. As an organization it is our mission to better the lives of everyone in our community, particularly those people who are the most vulnerable or marginalized. It is for that same reason that we are choosing to cancel—not postpone—the Nehemiah Action. We are canceling because at this point, we don't know how long this public health crisis will last.

We know from stories shared in house meetings and throughout our congregations that the need for justice in our community is great. Many of the problems that we're working on, such as the lack of affordable housing or inability to access mental health services, will only become greater as this health crisis progresses. We are committed to continue working on these important problems even though we are not having an Action. Our research strategy teams will be meeting in the next week to come up with next steps for each issue we're working on. In the coming weeks, please be on the lookout from us for ways that you can continue to participate in this justice work through things like emailing our public officials or participating in a video conference justice-themed text study.

We have had various members call us wondering what to do with their investments since they usually turn in checks in person. We able to receive checks by mail and you can also pay via card online. Please see our “INVEST” page in this website for more information. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FASTPinellas so that you can get the latest information and even see videos from our members!

We encourage everyone to stay safe during this difficult time, and to join together in prayer for our community and our country.

With peace,

Rev. Alethea Winston, St. James AME- FAST co-chair

Rev. Keith Walbolt, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd- FAST co-chair

Elder James Myles, Bethel Community Baptist Church

Rev. Robert Ward, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Rabbi Michael Torop, Temple Beth-El

Deacon Paul Koppie, St. Michael the Arcangel Catholic

Father Tom Anastasia, St. Matthew Catholic

Rev. Lee Hall- Perkins, Mt. Zion United Methodist

Cynthia Lippert, Holy Family Catholic

Rev. Kathy Walter, St. John's Episcopal

Rev. Willie McClendon, Shiloh Missionary Baptist

Janice Metz, St. Cecelia Catholic

Donna Davis, Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan

Rev. Jean Cooley, Good Samaritan Church

Flo Young, Bethel Community Baptist

Julius David, East Lake United Methodist