

## **SAMPLE PASTORAL AFFIRMATION LETTER**

I understand that **NAME** has submitted a religious exemption request from the COVID vaccine directive. As his pastor, I can speak to the sincerity of his faith and his request. **NAME** told me that after the directive to accept the COVID vaccine came out, he started searching the Scriptures as to how he should respond, and if he should accept the shot. **NAME** is a Christian, and believes the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, living Word of God. When Jesus Christ went back to heaven after He was resurrected, He promised to send his Holy Spirit, who would guide us into all truth.

Our church teaches that each believer in Christ receives the Holy Spirit, who directly leads the individual in his walk with God, as the believers seeks wisdom through prayer and Scripture reading. See the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. Our church teaches that believers should follow their conscience, as informed by the written word of God, and the leading of his Holy Spirit. Our church teaches the Biblical sanctity of human life, and the Biblical interdiction against abortion as the shedding of innocent blood. Many Christians understand this interdiction to include ingesting or benefiting from products derived from or using aborted fetal cell lines.

**NAME** has told me that based on his review of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and position statements, and understanding of the issues, and much prayer that he might discern truth from error, and whether he should get the shot, the Holy Spirit is not allowing him to accept the COVID shot. He believes that if he were to do so, he would be sinning against our living God. Our church supports him as he follows the leading of the Holy Spirit and supports his request for a religious exemption.