



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

May 22, 2024

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." - 3 John 1:2-4 KJV

Dear Saints,

The health disparities that exist within our communities will not go away without dedicated effort. It's an urgent matter – one we must prioritize and solve every single day – and that's why we're joyously celebrating the introduction of the **Wellvana Interfaith Network ("WIN")**, a partnership in service of healthier communities. WIN invites healthcare providers in our communities to join forces with doctors across the country offering capital, clinical support and technology that will allow them to reclaim their financial independence and transform the care they provide to our communities.

The Saints among us are at the greatest risk of death from heart disease, diabetes and kidney disease. The health of our church is at stake. I implore you today to engage with the primary care physicians and specialists in your congregation, ask them to recommit to the Decade of Health initiative and be the first to hear about the critical next steps to increase access to better healthcare for our community members.

I have assigned Elder Readus C Smith, III to lead this initiative as Secretary General of Health and Business. Please contact him at cogic@wellvana.com to schedule a date to introduce the Wellvana Interfaith Network initiative to the doctors in your community. I will be connecting with Elder Smith on the progress of this imperative initiative and level of participation throughout the year.

In His Service,

Bishop John Drew Sheard
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
The Eighth in Succession



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