

A Notice from the AGNCN District Officers
Santa Clara County Over-Ruled by District Court
02/09/2021

On February 5, 2021 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in favor of the church in South Bay Pentecostal Church v. Gavin Newsom.

A spokesman for Santa Clara County immediately made a statement claiming that the decision did not apply to the county and that the prohibition on worship would be enforced.

Obviously, this announcement caused much confusion and concern to our pastors and churches. This raised questions about jurisdiction and enforceability, and we received numerous calls with questions.

Fortunately, on February 8, a Federal Court Judge overruled the county and reinstated the permission granted by the Supreme Court. The District Officers are pleased that the Federal Judge has acknowledged what seems obvious the rest of the State—that the Supreme Court’s ruling does apply.

Santa Clara County responded to the Federal Judge’s ruling by announcing that worship will be allowed but restricted to 20%. We believe that this latest attempt to impose a 20% restriction is in contradiction to the District Court and the Supreme Court and hereby advises churches that the 25% restriction is the enforceable limit.

The bottom line is that indoor worship is allowed in Santa Clara County at 25% capacity in (purple/Tier 1 with no numerical cap.) However, the regulations about masks, singing, and sanitation still apply. The effect is immediate.