Date:

RE: [Parishioner’s name]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the pastor of the [church name] Seventh-day Adventist Church. I am writing this letter on behalf of [Parishioner’s name], who is a member in good standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. [Parishioner’s name] has requested a religious accommodation for the COVID vaccine, and I am writing to support [his/her] request.

One of the core teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the Church’s historic health message. Seventh-day Adventists believe that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20), and that Jesus lives in us when we accept Him as our personal Savoir (Colossians 1:27). The belief that the body is the temple of God is a belief that informs every action of a Seventh-day Adventist, and can be seen in our teachings on diet, exercise, appropriate entertainment, the Sabbath, personal devotions, appropriate Christian behavior, the sanctity of life, etc (1 Corinthians 10:31). I can attest that [Parishioner’s name] believes in these teachings and endeavors to follow them.

As a living temple, we understand that we must protect our body, keeping it holy, not putting any harmful substance in it, nor taking any unnecessary risks to our health. Adventists believe that one should adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. We are also to abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and drugs and narcotics that are harmful to our bodies.

Adventists also believe in the sacredness of human life, that God is the giver of life, that God makes each baby in the womb, and that God considers the unborn child as a human life. (Ps 139:16; Judges 13:5; Isa. 49:1, 5; Luke 1:15; Job 10:8-12; 31:15). Adventists believe that abortion is a serious issue and is out of harmony with God’s word. As a follower of God’s word, a Christian must not defile [his or her] body with substances that are immorally obtained or that contain aborted fetuses.

I have talked and counseled with [Parishioner’s name], and it is [his/her] sincere religious belief that taking the vaccine would be a violation of [his/her] obligation to God and a desecration of God’s temple—[his/her] body. Furthermore, [Parishioner’s name] is aware and concerned that fetal tissues obtained from abortions were used in the research and development of the vaccines, and in some cases in the actual vaccine. Thus, [Parishioner’s name] believes the vaccines are the fruit of a poisonous tree, the fruit of an abortion, an immoral action, for which it would be a sin to gain from, and which would thus further defile his body—God’s temple (Ephesians 5:11).

We greatly appreciate you giving due consideration to his request for a religious exemption/accommodation so that [Parishioner’s name] does not have to make the impossible choice between faithfulness to God and [Parishioner’s job/school/etc.]

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you as you honor [Parishioner’s name]’s commitment to his faith.

Sincerely,

Pastor [Name]

[name of church]

[Contact info]