

## STAGES FOR REOPENING (First Presbyterian Church)

### ***Provisional Timeline: Contingent on Local Conditions and Latest Developments***

*Our provisional timeline for resuming public worship is based on a number of available documents and proposals. It does not constitute medical or legal advice; rather, it seeks to outline steps we propose in careful coordination with government authorities and medical experts as we begin to resume in-person services.*

#### **STAGE 1** (*The church is currently in STAGE 1\**)

- Continue Online worship
- Prepare for increased risk reduction measures in the church buildings such as sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures
- Procure or ask members to procure personal protective equipment (PPE), which may be needed for in-person ministries and missions, such as cloth masks, face shields and gloves.
- Draft procedures for small group gatherings

#### **STAGE 2** (*entered into if risk of community transmission of virus is low, ie., positivity rate in county and state have declined for 14 days straight or a cure or vaccine has been made available*)

- Church activities are restricted to 50 persons or fewer
- Institute increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church
- Resume public worship with all members welcome regardless of age or underlying medical conditions. However, we must remind individuals over 65 or individuals with underlying medical conditions (at any age), that people within these groups have been shown to be at greater risk for serious complications should they become infected with Covid-19.
- Continue online worship for those remaining at home
- Maintain physical distancing in worship (6 ft, excluding households)
- Close common areas (fellowship halls, church offices, coffee spaces)
- Refrain from communion, handshakes and hugs, passing plates, printed bulletins
- PPE in the form of masks or face shields required

#### **STAGE 3** (*entered into if underlying risks are significantly reduced or eliminated such as the development of a cure or an effective vaccine for Covid-19*)

- Church activities are open to more than 50 persons
- Maintain increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church
- Resume public worship with all members (insofar as they feel comfortable doing so)
- Continue online worship
- Resume communion with precautionary measures (to be determined)
- Physical distancing may be relaxed and masks may become optional in some places

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\*In special circumstances (e.g., maintenance, archival or special mission work) the Safe Gatherings Task Force has outlined guidelines for participants.

### **Universal Precautions:**

#### **1. Venue must be able to support appropriate social distancing at 6 feet**

*Respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, speaking will fall from the air within a 6-ft radius of release.*

#### **2. Attendees will be required to wear a face covering or mask**

*Respiratory droplets are minimized from release when coughing, sneezing and speaking with facial coverings.*

#### **3. Temperatures will be taken using a no-touch method**

*One of the earliest signs of infection is a rise in body temperature.*

#### **4. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available to attendees and all must use prior to and after the gathering**

*Hand sanitation is one of the most effective procedure for reducing spread of respiratory diseases including Covid-19.*

#### **5. Attendees must social distance before, during, and after gatherings**

*See #1*

#### **6. Attendees may bring a beverage or food for themselves (and partner), but no food or drink sharing. Attendees should either bring their own cutlery/plate or disposable products should be used**

*Sharing food and beverages may spread Covid-19.*

**7. All surfaces (chairs, etc) will be cleaned/sanitized after gatherings are finished (sanitation materials will be made available by the church)**

*Non-porous surfaces can be effectively decontaminated (destroy Covid-19 viruses) if cleaned thoroughly using appropriate disinfectants.*

**8. Safety Guidelines will be posted at key locations**

*Easily read reminders of procedures reduces uncertainty in attendees and reassurance of what is expected.*

**Monday Night Church**

1. Adhere to Universal Precautions, PLUS:
2. Maximum in-person participants to remain at 10, but could be less based on venue. May be held outside, weather permitting.
3. Provide a Zoom option for those unable to attend in person. One person will be tasked with filming and monitoring for questions/comments (using the “raise hand” feature).

**Committee Meetings**

1. Adhere to Universal Precautions, PLUS:
2. Maximum in-person participants to remain at 10, but could be less based on venue. May be held outside, weather permitting
3. Provide a Zoom option for those unable to attend in person. One person will be tasked with filming and monitoring for questions/comments (using the “raise hand”)

**Memorial Services**

1. Adhere to Universal Precautions, PLUS:
2. Limit attendance to family and a few close friends. No more than 15-20.

3. Encourage graveside and columbarium memorial services only
4. Post obituary and service bulletin and guest registry on-line
5. Encourage elderly or “at risk” to stay home and send condolence cards. They can sign the guest log on-line
6. Schedule reception at a later date when safer.