

### Making Disciples of Christ from All Nations



Faith's mandate of making disciples for Christ from all nations continues to work itself out through our values of faith, multi-cultural /multi-generational community and servanthood. The Covid 19 virus has put these values to the test and our leadership and members are creatively engaging to move us forward into the opportunities God is setting up for us. We are paying attention to our medical health officer and the government restrictions. By now, we are learning to be patient, be kind and stay safe.

With the wide diversity of Faith's family members and those we continue reaching out to, we need to be prayerfully wise about our plan to re-establish our gathering and ministries. Following is a tentative framework for how we envision phasing in our ministries.

Phase 1 (RESTRICTED) Operations have the strictest requirements due to concern about spreading of the virus, where we have the most responsibility of doing our part to keep social distancing and isolation of staff. No gathering of staff or congregation is authorized with the exception of production of streaming church services and recording of special communications to the congregation. Only facilities personnel and excepted staff may be on campus without permission of the board and/or pastor.

During this phase, the following will be in place:

- Church Services ONLINE ONLY (Gotomeeting/Zoom/Youtube)
  - Daycares closed
  - Tutoring closed or online
  - Church plant online only
  - Rentals closed (RCM, funerals, weddings etc)
- Small Groups ONLINE ONLY (Zoom/Gotomeeting)
  - Prayer meetings online
  - Board meetings online
  - Consortium meetings online
- Campus CLOSED (some kitchen use available for outreach food prep)
  - Outreach in full operation
  - Custodial and office staff okay
  - Renovation workers okay
- Counseling ONLINE ONLY (Zoom / Phone)
- Special Events CANCELLED
- Staff Location mostly REMOTE (except secretary)
  - Training online
  - Financial team okay to tally resources
  - Senior Leaders drop in and out
  - Worship team okay for recording
- Vulnerable ONLINE ONLY

Phase 2 (REDUCED) Operations allows for the lightening of restrictions towards gatherings and will allow for small groups of people to gather together. This is the milestone that will allow for Small Groups to continue meeting in person; it is expected that no more than 50 people can congregate in this phase, with limitations adjusted as we near Phase 3.

During this phase, the following will be in place:

- Church Services ONLINE (GotoMeeting/Zoom) Possible gathering of socially distanced few in the auditorium while livestreaming happens. Worship groups may produce music in the facilities while practicing social distancing.
  - Daycares open with social distancing / limited numbers
  - Limited access to facility for small funerals/weddings etc.
  - Some rental options open (ie RCM)
  - Tutoring open
  - Church Plant gathers
- Small Groups ONLINE / IN PERSON (up to the group)
  - Prayer meetings open
  - Board meetings open
  - Consortium meetings open
  - Youth open
- Campus mostly CLOSED to visitors during the week
  - Outreach continues with kitchen use
  - Custodial still in full operation
- Counseling ONLINE ONLY (Zoom / Phone)
- Special Events CANCELLED
- Staff Location 100% REMOTE for appointments. Office use okay
  - Meetings in coffee shops or restaurants as regulations permit
  - Training together
- Vulnerable ONLINE ONLY

Phase 3 (LIMITED) Operations allows for the gathering of larger groups of people, and the local government has yet to provide the number restrictions. It is expected that groups of up to 500 will be able to gather over time, and church leadership will determine which activities will be allowed during each of those representative gathering levels, ensuring safety and security of those who gather.

During this phase, the following will be in place:

- Church Services IN PERSON (500 Max in building)
  - Daycares open
  - Funerals and weddings okay
  - Rental options open (ie RCM)
  - Tutoring open
  - Church Plant gathers
- Small Groups IN PERSON
  - Prayer meetings open
  - Board meetings open
  - Consortium meetings open
- Campus OPEN for visitors and appointments and gatherings
  - Outreach continues with kitchen use
  - Custodial still in full operation
- Counseling IN PERSON
- Special Events
  - Small celebrations outside okay
  - Children's camp okay
- Staff Location STAFF ON-SITE
- Vulnerable ONLINE ONLY

Phase 4 (STEADY-STATE) Operations is the new steady-state for FFBC keeping protective measures in place, but allowing for the return of our vulnerable members. During this phase, the following will be in place:

- Church Services IN PERSON (and livestreaming)
- Small Groups IN PERSON (or digital)
- Campus OPEN
- Counseling IN PERSON
- Special Events ALLOWED
- Staff Location ALL-STAFF ON-SITE
- Vulnerable IN PERSON

Between each phase the board will assess the current government legislation, the preparedness of our leadership team and members, and the condition of our facility. A tool, such as survey monkey, may be utilized in addition to calls and emails to gain insight and information from our congregants on their readiness to move to the next stage. There should be clear consensus and clear communication when the next phase is ready.

A few questions have been formulated to help gather information:

- When is the soonest you would consider coming back to the church building?
- What would you want to see happen before you would comfortably return to church?
- If we opened next week, would you volunteer in your same spot?
- If we opened next week, would you send your children to our children's programming?
- What do you miss most about church?

The board and staff team will remain in conversation so that each group in the church is kept in consideration as decisions are made.

Other considerations as we move forward

- Publish a page on our church's website that features the details of our reopening plan and our answers to frequently asked questions.
- Use a combination of social media, email, and our website to communicate the changes with those who will attend in-person and those who will continue to watch online.
- Establish what changes we anticipate to the way the church operates and the ways people are able to participate?
- Consider what response we give to those who believe it's too soon to reopen the church doors?

## EMAIL

In addition to sending an email to our church about whether or not we've decided to reopen soon, we might include a few of the people in our church in the decision-making process.

A few points to consider including in your email communication:

- "We haven't set a reopening date yet" or "Our date to reopen for in-person services is..."
- Encouragement and options for high-risk individuals

Communicating with clarity and concern is the most important objective.

- Criteria that church leadership is using to make the decision to reopen
- Extra precautions the church is taking to keep people safe
- Dates, times, and changes for in-person services
- Who to contact to ask additional questions or to

## WEBSITE

Update our church's website with our reopening message, plan, and guidelines and encourage people to check one dedicated page for updates.

## VIDEO

Communicating through video is another great option that can be executed among multiple platforms—sent in an email newsletter, posted on the church website, on social media, etc.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

With online worship and communication being the new normal for a while, many people look to a church's social media channels for updates. Social media is a great platform to share quick points of information.