



NORTH TEXAS

CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Michael McKee

Greeting

Rev. Cammy Gaston

Introduction



As states officially are “reopening,” churches will be gathering places where the need for care and safety will be especially important. The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments — an interdisciplinary group of theologians, scientists, physicians, pastors, bishops, and practitioners from United Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal, Pan-Methodist, and Roman Catholic traditions — offers guidance for safe ritual practices for the safety of the general public and for the vitality of Christian congregations. It is unique in its ecumenical range, and is the first to bring experts in liturgical theology into conversation with public health experts.

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/10369/resuming-care-filled-worship-and-sacramental-life-during-a-pandemic>



Rev. Todd Harris

Setting the Table for Pastoral Leadership



Rev. Kay Eck
Lovers Lane UMC

Contextual Challenges and Realities

Kim Hill
Christ UMC Plano

Example Checklist for Reopening

CHECKLIST FOR REOPENING

FIRST STEPS

- Create a task force focused on strategy and procedures
- Consult with members who work in medical profession
- Survey - formally and informally
- Research - visit worship services to discover best practices
- Communicate

PHASING

- Identify categories for reopen – staff, small groups, mission work, childcare, preschool, Sunday school, weddings, memorial services, facilities rentals, gym, worship
 - Define parameters for reopen
 - Identify factors that would result in closing
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WORSHIP

- Determine worship style – livestream to audience/live worship/hybrid
- Calculate capacity – every other pew and 6 feet between family units in pews
- Reservation system for headcount
- Multiple services? Time required for cleaning
- Singing
- Communion
- Masks - How manage if require
- Managing parking Lot
- Ingress/Egress
- Restrooms
- Manage expectations

PREPARE

- Develop Sunday morning policies and procedures
 - Recruit and train Sunday morning volunteer team
 - Develop staff and volunteer/participant guidelines
 - Create facilities hygiene protocol
 - Amend facilities use policies
 - Create contact tracing system
 - Revise waivers
 - Signage
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Lynnita Jessen
FUMC Richardson

Stages and Rolling Out a Plan

	STEP 0 - Building Closed	Step 1
Gathering Size		10
CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED TO MOVE FORWARD		
WORSHIP GATHERINGS	Online Only	Online Only
BAPTISMS		Confirmands and family only, outside, socially distant
FUNERAL		Inurnments outside, socially distant
WEDDING		Outside Only
GROUPS & CLASSES		Online Only
DAYCARE		Re-opens 6/15 following CDC and Texas Health & Human Services Guidelines
PRESCHOOL		Closed for the summer
PARKING LOT USE		With reservations/no restrooms
STAFF	Essential Staff only	Telecommuting/Skeleton Crews
STAFF/VOLUNTEERS - ON CAMPUS		Approval Required, Socially distanced, by appointment
LAY LEADERSHIP TEAMS	Parking lot reservations allowed	Online Only
OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS	Parking lot reservations allowed	Parking lot reservations allowed, support groups allowed with approval and participant list provided
VEHICLE USAGE		Not Permitted
FITNESS CENTER/GYM		Not Permitted
MEALS/DRINKS/ONSITE REFRESHMENTS		None provided, no buffets
CHURCH GUIDELINES		Small gatherings outside up to 10 people Strict physical distancing protocols Masks

	Step 2	Step 3
Gathering Size	25	50
CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED TO MOVE FORWARD	Dallas County cases are flat or declining for 2 weeks	Step 2 has proceeded well and community cases are flat or declining for 2 more weeks
WORSHIP GATHERINGS	Online Only	Online Only
BAPTISMS	Approval Required	Approval Required
FUNERAL	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,
WEDDING	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,
GROUPS & CLASSES	Online Only	Online Only
DAYCARE	Open following CDC and Texas Health & Human Services Guidelines	Open following CDC and Texas Health & Human Services Guidelines
PRESCHOOL	Closed for the summer	Closed for the summer
PARKING LOT USE	With reservations/no restrooms	With reservations/no restrooms
STAFF	Limited staff allowed, Telecommuting encouraged	Work on campus allowed, Telecommuting encouraged
STAFF/VOLUNTEERS - ON CAMPUS	Approval Required, Socially distanced, by appointment	Approval Required, Socially distanced, by appointment
LAY LEADERSHIP TEAMS	Online encouraged, approval required for on campus following specific guidelines	Allowed on campus (socially distant) - Online encouraged
OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS	Parking lot reservations allowed, support groups allowed with approval and participant list provided	Parking lot reservations allowed, support groups allowed with approval and participant list provided
VEHICLE USAGE	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
FITNESS CENTER/GYM	Staff only-limited use, members with waiver	Follow Richardson YMCA
MEALS/DRINKS/ONSITE REFRESHMENTS	None provided, pre-packaged only	None provided, pre-packaged only
CHURCH GUIDELINES	Small gatherings up to 25	Small gatherings up to 50
	Daily screening for all persons entering the building	Daily screening for all persons entering the building
	Strict physical distancing protocols	Strict physical distancing protocols
	Hand sanitizer available	Hand sanitizer available
	Post information about health precautions	Post information about health precautions
	Masks required outside of personal office	Masks required outside of personal office
	Enhanced cleaning requirements	Enhanced cleaning requirements

	Step 4	Step 5	Future - New Normal
Gathering Size	100	OVER 100	No Restrictions - New Normal
CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED TO MOVE FORWARD			
WORSHIP GATHERINGS	Online Only	Traditional Service, Modern Service and Online Service	Regular Schedule
BAPTISMS	Approval Required	Approval Required	Regular Schedule
FUNERAL	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,	Regular Schedule
WEDDING	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,	Sanctuary (socially distant), no congregational singing, no receptions,	Regular Schedule
GROUPS & CLASSES	Allowed on Campus (socially distant) and Online	Allowed on Campus (socially distant) and Online	Allowed on Campus and Online
DAYCARE	Open following CDC and Texas Health & Human Services Guidelines	Open following CDC and Texas Health & Human Services Guidelines	Regular Schedule
PRESCHOOL	Follows RISD guidelines	Follows RISD guidelines	Follows RISD guidelines
PARKING LOT USE	With reservations/TBD	With reservations/TBD	Permitted as scheduled
STAFF	Work on campus, Telecommuting optional	Work on campus allowed	Regular Schedule
STAFF/VOLUNTEERS - ON CAMPUS			Regular Schedule
LAY LEADERSHIP TEAMS	Allowed on campus (socially distant) - Online encouraged	Allowed on campus (socially distant) - Online encouraged	Regular Schedule
OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS	Parking lot reservations allowed, support groups allowed with approval and participant list provided	Parking lot reservations allowed, support groups allowed with approval and participant list provided	Regular Schedule
VEHICLE USAGE	Not Permitted	Permitted with Executive Director Approval	Regular Schedule
FITNESS CENTER/GYM	Follow Richardson YMCA	Follow Richardson YMCA	Regular Schedule
MEALS/DRINKS/ONSITE REFRESHMENTS	None provided, pre-packaged only	None provided, pre-packaged only	Regular Schedule
CHURCH GUIDELINES	Gatherings up to 100	Over 100	New Normal



Kay Richardson
St. Andrew UMC

Communication Strategy



Rev. Don Underwood

Pastor Emeritus – Christ UMC Plano

Keeping the Five Audiences Connected

The Five Audiences

THE HIGHLY ENGAGED AND UNAFRAID: These are the ones who will be present for inhouse worship no matter what when the decision is made to reopen.

THE HIGHLY ENGAGED BUT CAUTIOUS: This audience will return more slowly, and perhaps in sputters, depending on the degree of confidence they feel about safety and health.

THE HIGHLY ENGAGED WHO WILL POTENTIALLY NEVER RETURN OR RARELY RETURN: This audience is mostly seniors, but not entirely. Legitimate anxiety about disease, combined with the ease and effectiveness of digital worship experiences, may have changed their worship habits forever.

THE LESS ENGAGED: Obviously, this covers all demographics and various levels of church commitment. We *do* know that this group often feels great affection for their church, but without necessarily feeling the need to be highly engaged. What happens to this group now? How do we continue to stay in relationship with them?

THE NEWLY REACHED: It is possible that online worship has reached new people, and perhaps even reinvigorated some in the “less engaged” group. What happens to these constituents, and how do we communicate with them, if and when we return to inhouse activities?



Breakout Rooms



Questions?

ntcumc.org/coronavirus-resources

Under “Latest News”

