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Commit to Christ; Connect with Others; Care for Community ***St. John's UMC plan for reopening worship***

The following document is adapted from the re-opening plan of Desert Spring UMC. These guidelines are intended for St. John's and St. John's related ministries. Outside users (other than those with a pre-existing contract with SJUMC or Essential community ministries) of the facilities will be allowed to return upon entering into phase 3 of the document, when group sizes are not limited and when masks are encouraged but not required.

Note that the document includes an "internal document" (about 1/3 of the way into the plan) that gives detailed instructions to staff and volunteers carrying out all safety requirements.

Core values that guide our decisions

- A. **Do no harm.** Our decisions are based upon our best understanding of what it means to do no harm to members and constituents of the church.
- B. **All means all.** In our church, we welcome all people to participate fully. In this unprecedented time, all means all takes on new meaning: all of us are welcome to worship. Worship attendance will be limited in size, so as to do no harm as stated above, social distancing is no longer necessary.
- C. **Outwardly looking.** We know that the decisions St. John's makes not only impact the people of St. John's, they also impact the greater community. In order to be a responsible part of our greater community, St. John's will implement reopening plans within the confines of the Governors directives along with the directives of county and local government, and those of the Bishop.

What follows is our plan for reopening based upon these core values and our understanding of the directives of our Governor and Bishop.

Phase 1 (to be implemented upon permission from our Bishop)

During phase 1 we welcome gatherings of up to 10 people. In order to assure the safety of those who gather, please schedule room usage through the church office.

The church will provide the following support for all gatherings:

1. A large room will be provided to allow for safe distancing of a minimum of 6 feet.
2. Rooms and all accessible common surfaces will be sanitized prior to each usage
3. Hand sanitizer stations will be available
4. Disposable masks will be available and **MUST** be worn. If someone refuses, they will be given the option of participating in online Worship.
5. Group leaders/hosts will be provided guidelines for safe meetings as well as instructions on how to host a safe meeting
6. Signage on the importance and expectations of safe meetings will be posted
7. Anyone who has personally (or has been in contact with someone who has) tested positive within the last 14 days, or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms may **NOT** attend any activity.

Phase 2 (to be implemented upon permission from our Bishop)

During phase 2 groups of 30 people are welcome to gather in our multi-purpose room.

Groups of 30-50 people are welcome to gather in our Sanctuary (See In Person Reopening Plan).

In order to assure the safety of those who gather, room usage must come through the church office.

The church will provide the following support for all gatherings:

1. Rooms will be set up to allow for safe distancing
2. Rooms and all accessible common surfaces will be sanitized prior to each usage
3. Hand sanitizer stations will be available
4. Disposable masks will be available and **MUST** be worn.
5. Group leaders will be provided guidelines for safe meetings as well as instructions on how to host a safe meeting
6. Anyone who has personally (or has been in contact with someone who has) tested positive within the last 14 days, or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms may **NOT** attend any activity.
7. The church asks that anyone experiencing symptoms, or has had direct contact with someone experiencing symptoms not attend meetings.

Phase 3 (to be implemented upon permission of our Bishop)

During phase 3, public worship of all sizes resumes.

Phase 3.1 (to continue until it is safe to move to 3.2) In order to assure the safety of all those returning to worship, the church will provide the following safety measures:

1. Rooms and all accessible surfaces will be sanitized prior to each use, including sanitizing common surfaces and seating in the sanctuary and lobby.
2. Restrooms will be monitored and cleaned during and between worship services
3. Worship service experiences will be modified with safety in mind.
4. Hand sanitizer stations and disposable masks will be readily available.
5. One section of the sanctuary will be marked off as a safe distancing section, allowing people to choose to safe distance upon request.
6. Fellowship opportunities will be made available outside. Shade structures, coffee and water will be available.
7. Children will stay with parents during worship and fellowship times.

Phase 3.2 Sunday School for all ages begins, and childcare will be available.

The Fellowship Hall will reopen and be available for fellowship for those who prefer.

(Shade will still be set up outside, where people will be encouraged to gather.

Pastor's will be available to greet folks outside.) In order to assure the safety of all those participating, the church will provide the following support (along with all 3.1 protocols):

1. All Sunday School rooms, childcare rooms and education building restrooms will be sanitized prior to each usage.
2. New check in and check out procedures will be developed to minimize the number of people entering the Education wing.
3. Hand sanitizer will be provided for children as they enter and leave their Sunday School rooms.
4. Fellowship will continue outside. The lobby will re-open with limited furnishings for fellowship.

Phase 3.3: (When a vaccine for Covid-19 becomes available or the CDC determines the threat from Covid-19 has passed) Worship services return to our new normal, including the return of hymn singing and the choir. In order to assure the safety of all who attend, the church will provide the following support:

1. Hand sanitizer stations will be available in the lobby
2. Masks will be available upon request
3. Restrooms will be monitored and cleaned during and between services
4. The Fellowship Hall will be set up for fellowship, including refreshments
5. The Sanctuary and lobby will be sanitized each week
6. Sunday School rooms will be sanitized each week.

IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE TEST:

Per Mohave County Health Department Guidelines, if someone has a positive test all those attending the function/activity will be informed of a positive test while maintaining confidentiality of the person that tested positive.

The location where the function/activity took place MUST be Closed for 14 days (2 days of cleaning and sanitizing included in this time) Cleaning and sanitizing will follow CDC Guidelines.