

From the Conference:

As a team preparing for the reopening of your church campus, you are tasked with readying the facilities and people for returning and optimizing your congregation's ministries on site. This is no small task as we cannot simply reboot the status quo of pre-COVID-19 but must adapt to a new reality and embrace the opportunities it affords us.

Your scope of work not only prepares the facilities for worship, Sunday School, small group meetings and other ministries, **but also training your greeters, ushers, and other hospitality people** how to manage congregating in now limited spaces. In this we want to provide a loving, welcoming presence, while assuring the integrity and safety of the environment for all persons. In maintaining this safe space for all people, conflicts may arise.

Some scenarios to anticipate and possibly role play with your greeters and other assistants might include:

- A person who arrives without a mask
- A person who refuses to wear a mask
- A person who will not accept hand sanitizer
- A person who appears to be sick
- A person shaking hands or hugging
- Persons not practicing spatial distancing
- A person insisting on sitting in the place he/she has always sat
- Having to turn people away as the maximum safe capacity is met

These scenarios can be uncomfortable for both the greeter and the other person. Perhaps a starting place in resolving these issues is the Wesleyan spirit of "In essentials, unity; in uncertain things, liberty; in all things charity." You will need to determine what is essential for your congregation and how to encourage a spirit of unity without causing divisions or feelings of disrespect. In matters that do not compromise the essentials, error on the side of grace. In all things, make love prevail. Clear communication of the changes and expectations with the congregation prior to reopening can mitigate some of the potential conflicts.

Entrance

- All greeters will be outside the building, not inside. At least 2 people ~ one to explain the policies and practices, one to give masks and sanitizer and open the door so they can be seated by an usher
- As worshippers reach the concrete, greeters walk to meet them, maintaining a 6 foot distance, no contact.
- Screening questions are asked: Do you have symptoms, have you been exposed? If the answer to either is “yes,” then the worshipper is asked to return home to worship online. [Note: we may be adding an FM broadcast, which would allow worshippers to remain in their cars and worship.]
- Each greeter offers mask, sanitizer to people, explains the policy of sitting where directed by ushers, socially distanced from others. Reminds the people not to shake hands, hug, etc.
- Greeter then escorts worshippers to the door
- The ushers are waiting inside the doors to escort worshippers to their seats.
- Ushers will ask people if they want to sit in the front half or the back half, on the left or the right. Until winter residents return, we will have sufficient space for all who wish to come.
- When we reach 80% of allowed occupancy (return of winter residents), we will add a second service immediately following the first so all may worship

If a person refuses to wear a mask, the greeter should ask why. “May I know why you don’t wish to wear a mask?”

Possible Answers

“I don’t think they work”

Answer: We know that there is some discussion about whether or not masks work. We prefer to err on the side of caution, because that’s what the CDC and the Arizona State Department of Health recommend. We wear masks to protect each other

“I’m not afraid to get sick” or “I’m not afraid to die – if I die I’ll go to heaven”

Answer: We understand your choices, and they may make sense for you. However, we have people in the congregation who are especially vulnerable due to age or preexisting conditions, and on the off chance that you may be carrying the virus without symptoms, we are asking you to wear a mask to protect others.

“I’m healthy, why do I have to wear one”

Answer: Because it is possible for people to have the virus and be contagious without showing any symptoms, it is important for everyone to wear a mask to protect others. We have people in the congregation who are especially vulnerable due to age or preexisting conditions, and on the off chance that you may be carrying the virus without symptoms, we are asking you to wear a mask to protect others.

If they will not wear a mask, even for medical reasons, invite them to worship at home, online until such a time as masks are no longer necessary.

Setup Outside

Use west entrance doors only ~

Tent/Poster by lobby doors directing people to the west doors.

Exterior lobby doors locked ~ decrease likelihood of people hanging out in the lobby and not social distancing

Tape on the ground – 6’ intervals from the doors

Table about 12’ in front of doors with masks and sanitizer.

Setup Inside

Nave:

- Tape off the ends of every other row. People sit with household units on the ends of pews. *See photos, below*
- The idea is we will have people on the right side of pew 1, the left side of pew 2, the right side of pew 3, etc.
- We will mark off the middle of the pews so that people will not get too close together. Most households are no more than 2-3 people, so this should be fine.
- Begin the process from the rows that are shortened to allow for wheelchairs – these both need to be available for people to use.
- Welcome and announcements will still be done from the front and center, at least 6 feet from the first row people are sitting in.

Chancel:

- Pastor will sit behind the pulpit
- Liturgist will sit in a chair on the far side of the altar from the pastor. This is still up for negotiation ~ it may be better/more comfortable for liturgist to sit in choir loft or in front row of the nave.

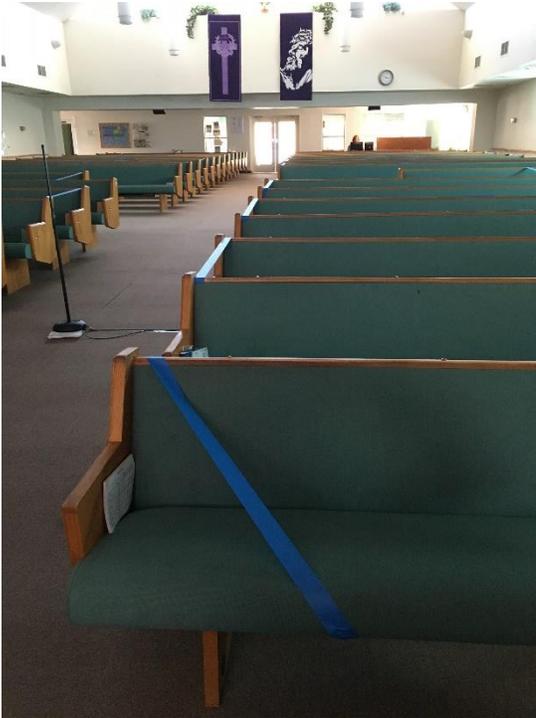
Choir Lofts:

- Chairs have been removed from the Chancel Choir loft and replaced by the bell tables.
- The bell tables will be spread out so there is better distancing. All ringers will wear masks while playing.
- The bell choir loft will remain empty until further notice

Training

- On August 23 we recorded pieces of a “training video” to demonstrate the entrance procedures. This will be shared with the congregation and put on our webpage and facebook page when it is complete.
- Jim Edwards (head usher/greeter) is on board to do training/role-playing with greeters and ushers

Photos of Pews that have been taped off to provide for distancing



Front rows reserved for musicians and service leadership They will sit on the ends opposite the 2nd row opening

