

Report of the Providence Presbyterian Church Regathering Task Force

June 25, 2020

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1. Background

At its March 15, 2020 stated meeting, after discussing the growing health risks from the COVID-19 pandemic based on reports and orders from public health authorities, the Session of Providence Presbyterian Church (“PPC”) canceled large group meetings at the church for two weeks. The Session subsequently extended the suspension of large group meetings at the church. At its May 17, 2020 meeting the Session approved setting up a task force to recommend measures for resuming gatherings at the church in light of concerns about COVID-19 and asked the task force to report its recommendations at the Session's June, 2020 stated meeting.

In response to the Session’s action, the PPC Regathering Team (“Team”) was formed in late May. The Regathering Team members are:

- Pastor Walt McCanless;
- Associate Pastor Lal Rodawla;
- Janice Williams, Music Director;
- Stacey Rommich, Preschool Director and Deacon;
- Brenda Rorie, Property Committee;
- Carol Ashford, Worship Committee;
- Dr. Laramie Williams, M.D.;
- Nick Turkas, Arthritis Foundation;

- Tamera Green, Elder; and
- Rolly Chambers, Elder

The purpose of the Team is to provide support to the PPC Session on how to begin regathering safely for worship and other events on campus by providing sound recommendations.

This is the Regathering Team’s Report to the Session. The Team received, reviewed, and considered numerous items of information and guidance regarding COVID-19 from multiple sources, which are listed in Appendix A.

In addition, we conducted a church-wide survey during June to assess the congregation’s feelings about regathering. Key findings are noted below (the complete survey results are included as Appendix B).

- 142 church members responded to the survey.
- 79% are not ready to attend in-person worship.
- 40% expect to feel ready a month from now (end of July/early August); 64% ready to attend (end of August); 79% ready (beginning October); 20% not ready until there is a COVID-19 vaccine.
- 97% felt mitigation measures ARE necessary for in-person worship.
- Top five restrictions:
 1. STRONGLY encourage facemasks (94%)
 2. 6-ft. Social distancing (87%)
 3. Hand sanitizer available (85%)
 4. Contact tracing (58%)
 5. Outdoor services only (44%)

2. COVID-19 Overview

The Regathering Team believes federal, state, and local public health authorities are credible sources of current information and guidance regarding COVID-19. According to the North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS), “COVID-19 is an international, national and North Carolina public health emergency.” It is a new disease and public health officials are still learning how it spreads and the severity of illness it causes. (DHHS, About COVID-19, <https://COVID19.ncdhhs.gov/about-COVID-19>).

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness with symptoms similar to the flu. Symptoms (commonly fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, sore throat, headache, nausea) are typically mild to moderate and appear 2-14 days after exposure, but there have been cases of severe illness and death. (DHHS, Symptoms, <https://COVID19.ncdhhs.gov/about-COVID-19/symptoms>). As of June 21, in Mecklenburg County there had been 8,334 confirmed cases (about 1 in 15 were hospitalized) and 142 deaths. Trends in hospitalizations increased over the previous 14

days while the percent of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 slightly decreased. (Mecklenburg County, COVID-19 Data for June 21, <https://www.mecknc.gov/news/Pages/Mecklenburg-County-COVID-19-Data-for-June-21.aspx>). Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. (CDC, Symptoms of Coronavirus, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided general information about ways that the COVID-19 virus spreads. COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close person-to-person contact or through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. The COVID-19 virus spreads very easily and sustainably between people. It may be possible to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching one's mouth, nose, or possibly eyes. But this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. (CDC, How COVID-19 Spreads, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-COVID-spreads.html>).

Coronaviruses such as the COVID-19 virus naturally die within hours to days on surfaces and objects. On their own, coronaviruses cannot replicate or reproduce. On their own, they cannot move around. Additionally, the virus that causes COVID-19 can be killed by normal routine cleaning with soap and water. Frequent disinfection of commonly touched surfaces and objects with EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 can also help reduce the risk. (CDC, Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>).

3. Current Guidance for Places of Worship to Limit the Spread of COVID-19

On May 22, 2020 the DHHS issued guidelines setting out steps that places of worship should take to limit the spread of COVID-19 particularly when people gather in enclosed indoor spaces. (DHHS, Interim Guidance for Places of Worship and Religious Services (May 22, 2020), <https://files.nc.gov/COVID/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Places-of-Worship-Phase-2.pdf>). Among other things, the DHHS guidelines, which the state government will not enforce, encourage:

- Social distancing by staying at least six feet from others (especially choir members), marking floor and seating spacing at six-foot intervals both indoors and outdoors, limiting the use of frequently-touched objects such as hymnals, bulletins, and offering plates, and wearing face coverings;

- Cleaning and personal hygiene by promoting washing hands with soap or using hand sanitizer, regularly disinfecting frequently touched areas, providing tissues for cough and sneeze hygiene, and increasing circulation of outdoor air in indoor spaces;
- Protecting people at higher risk of severe disease (e.g. older members, people with underlying health conditions) through the use of virtual services or designating exclusive times for at-risk individuals to attend services; and
- Providing reminders and accurate information from the CDC and DHHS concerning COVID-19 through posters, messaging, and staff training.

The CDC also published general considerations to help communities of faith discern how best to practice their beliefs while keeping their staff and congregations safe from COVID-19. (CDC, Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html>). The CDC suggests:

- Offering remote participation in services to people at higher risk for severe illness;
- Promoting good health hygiene practices by encouraging the use of and by supplying hand soap or hand sanitizer and tissues and by posting signs about stopping the spread of COVID-19;
- Encouraging the use of cloth face coverings;
- Intensified cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and shared objects and increased circulation of outdoor air;
- Promoting social distancing by limiting the size of groups, by gathering outdoors or in a large well-ventilated space, and by providing physical guides to help people stay at least six feet apart; and
- Minimizing the sharing of frequently touched objects such as hymnals, bulletins, or collection trays and avoiding physical contact.

The PCUSA has offered theological and practical guidance for congregations and leaders about the church's worship in the wake of the Covid-19 global pandemic. (PCUSA, Returning to Public Worship: Theological and Practical Considerations, https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/covid-19/returning_to_public_worship_may_2020.pdf). Highlights of the PCUSA's general considerations for congregations returning to worship are:

- Increased hygiene by providing hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations, by reducing contact with printed worship aids and books, and by cleaning high-touch surfaces regularly and frequently;
- Physical distancing by advising worshippers to stay at least six feet apart, arranging gathering and seating spaces to facilitate physical distancing, and coordinating gathering and sending of worshippers to minimize close personal contact;
- Encouraging worshippers and worship leaders to wear masks;
- Communicating expectations by email and websites for those planning to attend worship, asking those who feel ill to worship from home, and posting signs promoting best practices for hygiene; and
- Gathering in spacious areas outdoors or indoors and changing the order of worship to omit choral and congregational singing, avoiding handshakes or hugs, and avoiding the passing of offering plates.

The Team has learned that only one PCUSA congregation in the Charlotte Presbytery has recently resumed in-person worship and has about 20-25 attendees.

4. Current Activities at PPC

Currently, nearly all on-campus activities at PPC have been suspended since March in keeping with the Session's action. Worship is conducted remotely via online streaming, small groups such as Sunday school classes, committees, the youth group, and circles meet at their discretion via video conferences, the Preschool has suspended operations for the year, and in late May the church office opened for three days a week for half-days with recommended COVID-19 mitigation measures for social distancing, personal hygiene, and cleaning/disinfecting in place.

AA groups have continued meeting regularly outside in two or three locations in the evenings, the South Providence counseling center has suspended in-person sessions, and other affiliated groups such as scouts and a wheelchair basketball league have suspended gatherings.

5. Recommendations for Regathering

The Regathering Task Force recommends that guidance from public health authorities, primarily the DHHS, should be the basis for COVID-19 mitigation measures at PPC. In general, current DHHS guidance focuses on the following mitigation measures and procedures:

- Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure
- Wearing Cloth Face Coverings
- Cleaning and Hygiene especially of hands and frequently touched surfaces
- Monitoring for Symptoms.

The Regathering Task Force further recommends that small group gatherings can resume outdoors and indoors at PPC in the CLC gym and that the church office can remain open provided the mitigation measures set out below are carefully observed.

The Team recommends that virtual worship services should continue. However regathering in-person for worship should not begin at this time but the Session should reconsider the possibility in 1-2 months.

Finally, the Team is continuing to consider mitigation measures for the Preschool but has not yet developed applicable recommendations.

Administrative Considerations

- Facilities
Scheduling of all gatherings should be through the church office. Leaders of PPC small group meetings (Sunday school classes, circles, men’s groups, book clubs, etc.) should be provided with a written copy of the relevant PPC COVID-19 mitigation measures to be observed.

In-person gatherings of small groups affiliated with PPC (AA, Scouts, etc.) also should be scheduled through the church office and coordinated by the Usage Subcommittee. The Usage Subcommittee should provide affiliated groups with a written copy of the relevant PPC COVID-19 mitigation measures along with any other use-related materials.

- Communications
The Session should inform the congregation about the Session’s decisions concerning in-person gatherings and COVID-19 mitigation measures through the “What’s Coming Up @ PPC” newsletter, through video announcements as part of video worship services, through email blasts, and similar media.

Worship Services

As noted above, the Team recommends that online worship services continue for the near future. The Team at this point does not recommend resuming in-person worship. The Team suggests that the Session re-visit the question of resuming in-person worship services in 1-2 months.

The Team has considered possible ways to gather in-person for worship including:

- Outdoor Worship Services
- Devotional Services for small groups
- Use of a Prayer Walk
- Tailgate Church Services.

Separate and apart from mitigation measures for COVID-19, each of these alternatives raises logistical and organizational considerations, such as setting up musical equipment and loudspeakers, managing social distancing for a large group gathering, arranging seating, providing for special music, arranging to live stream a worship service, changing our customary order of worship, and similar issues. In general, however, the Team expects that any in-person gatherings for worship basically would follow the COVID-19 mitigation measures outlined in this report for small group gatherings.

COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for PPC Church Office (June 24, 2020)

- Disinfect door handles, counters, and desktop surfaces.
[DHHS – “Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails, tables, chairs).”]
- Keep tissue and hand sanitizer on desks.
[DHHS – “Provide tissues for proper cough and sneeze hygiene” and ““Provide, whenever available, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance and other areas.”]
- Provide hand sanitizer stations in each building.
[DHHS – “Provide, whenever available, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance and other areas. Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers.”]
- Avoid drinking fountains.
[DHHS – “Provide or encourage staff to bring their own water or individual meals, to reduce possible exposure.”]
- Wipe down cell phones, phones, computer keyboards, and other office tools (such as copiers) regularly.
[DHHS – “Consider posting signs around frequently touched objects like shared printers or bathroom sinks” and “Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas....”]
- Keep trash cans available throughout campus.
- Wear masks when there is more than one person in the office.

[DHHS – “It is strongly recommended that all individuals wear a cloth face covering when they may be near (less than 6 feet from) other people.”]

- Keep a good supply of disposable gloves and masks should anyone need them.
[DHHS – “It is encouraged that businesses and organizations provide cloth face coverings for employees and customers.”]
- Social distancing in effect.
[DHHS – “Move desks and workstations at least six (6) feet apart” and “Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people; do not gather in groups....”]
- Wash hands often.
[DHHS – “Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer for staff and individuals.”]
- Open church office at reduced hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
[DHHS - “Allow staff to work remotely as much as possible” and “Stagger shifts when remote working is not possible.”]
- Send home anyone in the office who becomes ill.
[DHHS – “Employees who have symptoms when they arrive at work or become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.”]
- Self-screen for Covid-19 symptoms.
[DHHS – “Conduct daily symptom screening (use this standard interview questionnaire) of employees at entrance to workplace with immediately sending symptomatic workers home to isolate.”]
- Put up posters.
[DHHS – “Put up signs and posters such as those found [in] Know Your W’s: Wear, Wait, Wash....”]

[Note: Recommended church office mitigation measures based primarily on NC Dept. of Health and Human Services Interim General Guidance for Businesses and Organizations (May 22, 2020)(“DHHS”)
(<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Interim-Guidance-for-Businesses-and-Organizations-Phase-2.pdf>)]

COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for Outdoor Gatherings of Small Groups at PPC (June 24, 2020)

- Small groups may gather in any outdoor location on the PPC campus during daylight, including funeral or memorial services
- Encourage meeting leaders to limit in person attendance to no more than 25 in an outdoor gathering
[Exec. Order 141, Sec. 7.A.1 (May 20, 2020) – “The outdoor Mass Gathering limit of twenty-five (25) people applies to groups of people that may gather together in a park, and on a beach or trail.” (not enforced for religious gatherings)]
- Require 6’ social distancing (meeting leaders are strongly encouraged to mark socially distanced spacing/seating for groups of 10 or more)
[DHHS – “Space seating arrangements so there are 6 feet between groups who live in the same household” and “In indoor and outdoor areas where people gather, provide floor markings at six-foot intervals to encourage social distancing.”]
- Strongly encourage participants to bring their own chairs (perhaps have some disinfected chairs available for those who do not bring their own)
- Strongly encourage participants to wear face masks (provide masks for those who do not have one)
[DHHS – “It is encouraged that places of worship provide cloth face coverings for staff and congregants.”]
- Avoid sharing or passing written materials or other objects
[DHHS – “Limit the use of frequently-touched objects such as worship aids, prayer books, hymnals, attendance registers, or other shared or passed items. Encourage congregants to bring their own prayers, bulletins, songs and texts through electronic means if possible.”]
- Encourage limiting the duration of gatherings to two hours or less
- Schedule all gatherings through the church office and provide contact information for the meeting leader; encourage meeting leaders to keep a record of attendees to help with contact tracing
- Have bathrooms available in the Fellowship Hall if requested by the group leader (allow 1-person at-a-time when restroom is in use) - post use guidelines and “wait-wear-wash” posters in the restrooms
[DHHS – “Put up signs and posters, such as ... “Know Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash.”]
- Strongly encourage hand washing and have hand sanitizer and tissues available for participants

[DHHS – “Prominently provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) at entrances and exits and near high-touch areas” and “Provide tissues for proper cough and sneeze hygiene.”]

- Allow screening (temperature checks and health questionnaires) if the group leader desires for larger gatherings or gatherings that include high-risk participants
[DHHS – “Conduct daily symptom screening (use this standard interview questionnaire) of employees”]
- Create an isolation location (a “sick room”) in the left front classroom of the Fellowship Hall for attendees that may show COVID-19 symptoms and want or need a place to wait before they can be picked up
[DHHS – “Have a plan in place for immediately removing employees from work if symptoms develop.”]
- Provide for cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched areas, including restroom fixtures, and have appropriate cleaning materials available for the group
[DHHS – “Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails)”]
- Encourage meeting leaders to provide a videoconferencing option for those who want to participate in the meeting but prefer not to gather in person
[DHHS – “Provide an option for virtual services” and “Encourage the use of virtual services ... for seniors and other at-risk groups”]

[Note: Recommended mitigation measures are based primarily on NC Dept. of Health and Human Services Interim Guidance for Places of Worship and Religious Services (May 22, 2020) (“DHHS”)
(<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Places-of-Worship-Phase-2.pdf>)

The DHHS guidance is for “[a]ll entities that congregate people in an enclosed space,” but the Regathering Task Force believes that many of the recommended mitigation measures also should apply to outdoor group gatherings at PPC.]

COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for Indoor Gatherings of Small Groups at PPC (June 25, 2020)

- Small groups may gather indoors only in the gym area of the PPC Christian Life Center (CLC)
- Limit in-person attendance to no more than 25 at an indoor gathering in the CLC
- Require 6’ social distancing (meeting leaders are strongly encouraged to mark socially distanced spacing/seating for groups of 10 or more)

[DHHS – “Space seating arrangements so there are 6 feet between groups who live in the same household” and “In indoor and outdoor areas where people gather, provide floor markings at six-foot intervals to encourage social distancing.”]

- Use separate routes for entry and for exit of attendees and avoid clustering at entry and exit points
[DHHS – “Clearly mark designated entry and exit points; if a house of worship or building has only one entry/exit point, try to stagger entry and exit times”]
- Strongly encourage participants to bring their own chairs (perhaps have some disinfected chairs available for those who do not bring their own)
- Strongly encourage participants to wear face masks and provide masks for those who do not have one
[DHHS – “It is encouraged that places of worship provide cloth face coverings for staff and congregants.”]
- Avoid sharing or passing written materials or other objects
[DHHS – “Limit the use of frequently-touched objects such as worship aids, prayer books, hymnals, attendance registers, or other shared or passed items. Encourage congregants to bring their own prayers, bulletins, songs and texts through electronic means if possible.”]
- Encourage limiting the duration of gatherings to two hours or less
- Schedule all gatherings through the church office and provide contact information for the meeting leader; encourage meeting leaders to keep a record of attendees to help with contact tracing
- Have bathrooms available in the CLC (allow 1 person at-a-time when restroom is in use)- post use guidelines and “wait-wear-wash” posters in the restrooms
[DHHS – “Put up signs and posters, such as ... ‘Know Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash.’”]
- Strongly encourage hand washing and have hand sanitizer and tissues available for participants
[DHHS – “Prominently provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) at entrances and exits and near high-touch areas” and “Provide tissues for proper cough and sneeze hygiene.”]
- Allow screening (temperature checks and health questionnaires) if the group leader desires for larger gatherings or gatherings that include high-risk participants

[DHHS – “Conduct daily symptom screening (use this standard interview questionnaire) of employees”]

- Create an isolation location (a “sick room”) in a separate location in the CLC for attendees that may show COVID-19 symptoms and want or need a place to wait before they can be picked up
[DHHS – “Have a plan in place for immediately removing employees from work if symptoms develop.”]
- Require the group to provide for cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched areas, including restroom fixtures, and have appropriate cleaning materials available for the group
[DHHS – “Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails)”]
- Encourage meeting leaders to provide a videoconferencing option for those who want to participate in the meeting but prefer not to gather in person
[DHHS – “Provide an option for virtual services” and “Encourage the use of virtual services ... for seniors and other at-risk groups”]

[Note: Recommended mitigation measures based primarily on NC Dept. of Health and Human Services Interim Guidance for Places of Worship and Religious Services (May 22, 2020) (“DHHS”)]

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Places-of-Worship-Phase-2.pdf>]

Preschool

Recommendations for COVID-19 mitigation measures for the Preschool are being developed by the Regathering Task Force.

Alternative Mitigation Measures

The Team recognizes that in some situations, particularly gatherings at PPC involving affiliated groups, alternative COVID-19 mitigation measures may be reasonably appropriate. The Team recommends that requests for variances from any PPC mitigation measures by any group should be submitted to the Usage Subcommittee for review. Team members are willing to assist the Usage Subcommittee in reviewing and making recommendations regarding such requests.

6. Summary

In summary, the Regathering Task Force recommends that in-person small group gatherings (25 attendees or less) can resume at PPC outdoors or indoors in the CLC

gym and that the church office should remain open provided the recommended mitigation measures set out in this report are carefully observed.

The Team recommends that virtual worship services should continue for the immediate future. Regathering in-person for worship should not begin at this time but the Session should reconsider the possibility in 1-2 months.

Finally, the Team is continuing to consider mitigation measures for the Preschool but has not yet developed applicable recommendations.

Appendix A – Cited References and Links

CDC, How COVID-19 Spreads (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-COVID-spreads.html>)

CDC, Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith (May 23, 2020) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html>)

CDC, Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>)

CDC, Symptoms of Coronavirus (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

Mecklenburg County, COVID-19 Data for June 21 (<https://www.mecknc.gov/news/Pages/Mecklenburg-County-COVID-19-Data-for-June-21.aspx>)

NCDHHS, About COVID-19 (<https://COVID19.ncdhhs.gov/about-COVID-19>)

NCDHHS, Community Events (<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/individuals-families-communities/community-events>)

NCDHHS, Interim General Guidance for Businesses and Organizations (May 22, 2020) (<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Interim-Guidance-for-Businesses-and-Organizations-Phase-2.pdf>)

NCDHHS, Interim Guidance for Places of Worship and Religious Services (May 22, 2020) (<https://files.nc.gov/COVID/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Places-of-Worship-Phase-2.pdf>)

NCDHHS, Symptoms (<https://COVID19.ncdhhs.gov/about-COVID-19/symptoms>)

PCUSA, Returning to Public Worship: Theological and Practical Considerations (https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/covid-19/returning_to_public_worship_may_2020.pdf)

Other References

Bromage, The Risks - Know Them - Avoid Them (May 6, 2020) (<https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them>)

CDC, Youth Programs and Camps during the COVID-19 Pandemic
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Camps-Decision-Tree.pdf>)

Edmiston, Preparing to Reopen Our Churches Again (May 6, 2020)
(<https://achurchforstarvingartists.blog/2020/05/06/preparing-to-reopen-our-churches-again/>)

Marsh & McLennan Agency, COVID-19 Insurance Coverage Considerations (March 19, 2020) (<https://mma.marshmma.com/COVID19-BICoverageConsiderations>)

Marsh & McLennan Agency, Return to the Workplace: Employee Policies & Safety Measures (May 8, 2020)

PPC, Memo regarding Church Office Mitigation Measures (May 15, 2020)

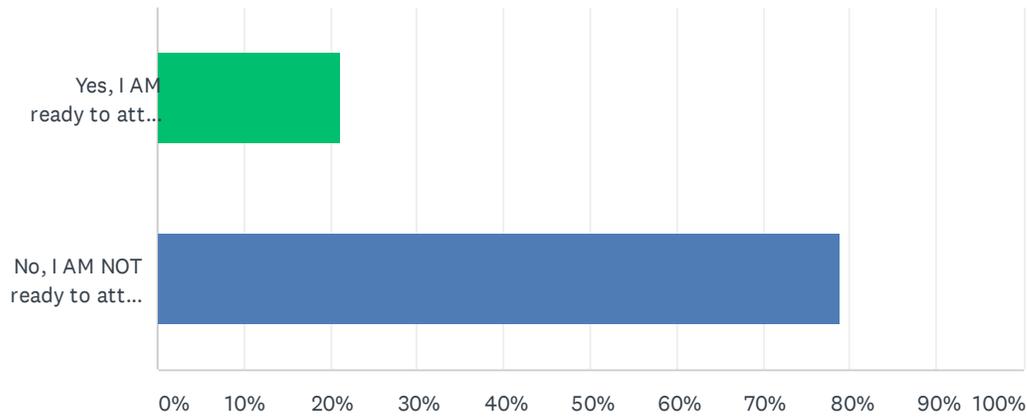
South Providence Counseling, Letter from Michelle McDevitt-Askew to clients (May 15, 2020)

Various news reports regarding COVID-19

Appendix B – PPC Congregational Survey (Road to Regathering)

Q1 How you feel about attending future in-person worship services at PPC?

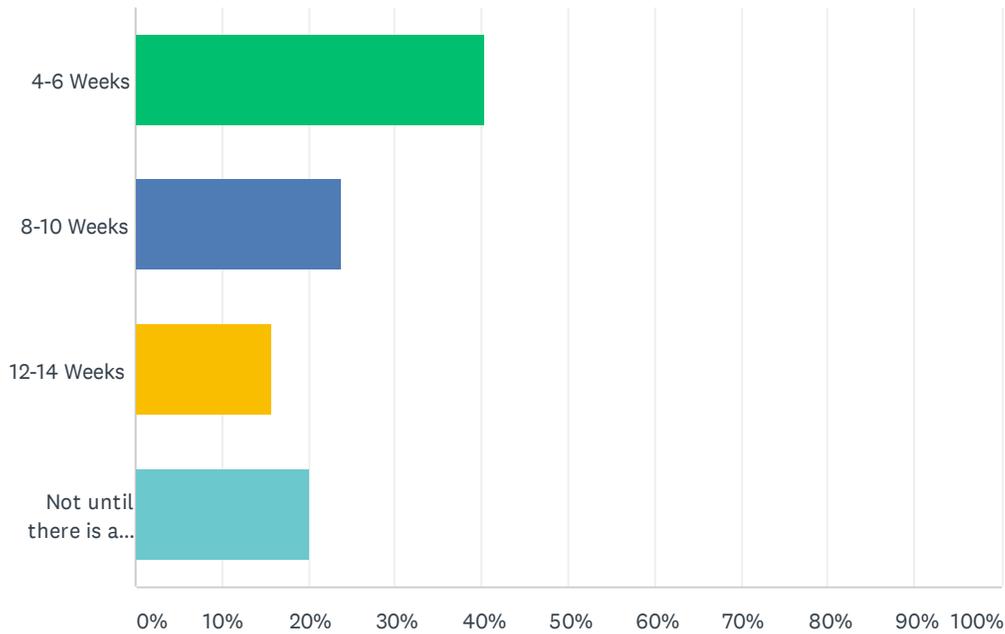
Answered: 142 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I AM ready to attend in-person worship this weekend.	21.13%	30
No, I AM NOT ready to attend in-person worship at this time.	78.87%	112
TOTAL		142

Q2 If NOT ready for in-person worship services, please select when you might feel ready.

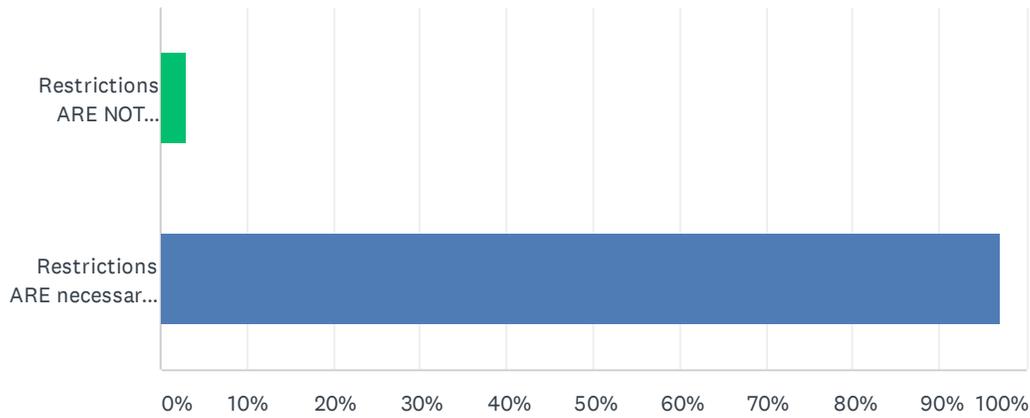
Answered: 109 Skipped: 34



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
4-6 Weeks	40.37% 44
8-10 Weeks	23.85% 26
12-14 Weeks	15.60% 17
Not until there is a vaccine.	20.18% 22
TOTAL	109

Q3 What is your opinion on the need for restrictions for IN-PERSON worship services?

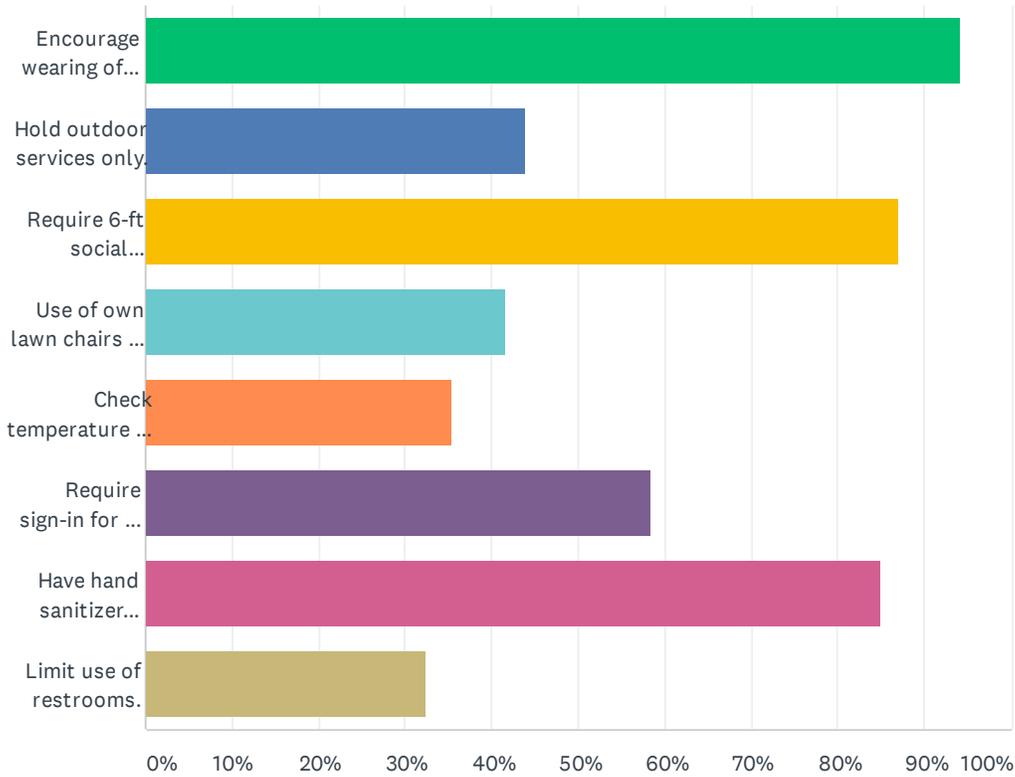
Answered: 141 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Restrictions ARE NOT necessary to hold in-person worship.	2.84%	4
Restrictions ARE necessary in order to have in-person worship.	97.16%	137
TOTAL		141

Q4 If you believe restrictions ARE necessary, please select all that are important to you.

Answered: 139 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Encourage wearing of masks by all attendees.	94.24%	131
Hold outdoor services only.	43.88%	61
Require 6-ft social distancing.	87.05%	121
Use of own lawn chairs by all attendees.	41.73%	58
Check temperature for all attendees upon arrival.	35.25%	49
Require sign-in for all attendees (contact tracing).	58.27%	81
Have hand sanitizer available for use by attendees.	84.89%	118
Limit use of restrooms.	32.37%	45
Total Respondents: 139		

Q5 What else would you like PPC to know about your thoughts on in-person worship?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 74

Q5 What else would you like PPC to know about your thoughts on in-person worship?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 74

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Masks and sanitizer available Set up chairs 6' apart & use CLC Have only one service	6/22/2020 4:29 PM
2	I really like the idea of outdoor services, but offering indoor when weather is not good, possibly using CLC building for the space.	6/22/2020 9:42 AM
3	Since we have virtual services and classes I would not want to force in-person worship until we're very sure. It will eventually happen and in the meanwhile we need to protect our church family. We have many members over 65 y.o. and many with pre-existing conditions. Thank you!	6/21/2020 9:21 PM
4	Use scientific guidelines	6/21/2020 2:30 PM
5	Additional concerns about singing, ways to distance at the beginning and end of service.	6/21/2020 9:50 AM
6	The big problem is singing. Consider how that could be met.	6/20/2020 6:40 PM
7	I'm ready for in person worship but not until it is safe. Don't know when that will be, wish it were now. Because I'm immune suppressed it's going to be hard for me to go out for awhile even though I would love to now. But for me I need to be safe not sorry.	6/20/2020 10:45 AM
8	Consider live broadcast / simulcast for those at risk or not ready to venture out.	6/20/2020 9:14 AM
9	Would have to meet somewhere instead of church	6/19/2020 6:34 PM
10	Bigger area than the church needed for awhile	6/19/2020 6:23 PM
11	I miss in-person worship very much. I will most likely delay because of my age until a vaccine is available.	6/19/2020 4:01 PM
12	I would like to resume services & fellowship at PPC as soon as it is possible for all Ages of attendees to feel safe & with practical safety procedures in place.	6/19/2020 3:47 PM
13	These responses may change if there is a downward trend in Covid cases. Right now that is not happening.	6/19/2020 12:08 PM
14	We will be living with this virus for another year or more and the only means of protecting our selves is by using masks for everyone old enough to keep it on (over 10 yrs old? let parents decide) plus distance and hand washing. Life is full of risk and we gladly accept that risk every day so we can live our lives with friends and especially family. The virus is a new risk we must live with or chose to stay home until a vaccine is taken. We trust our fellow parishioners will use common sense while we live through this pandemic.	6/19/2020 10:03 AM
15	Do a live stream of the service for those who aren't comfortable attending in person	6/19/2020 7:57 AM
16	You could consider either adding an outdoor service or having one indoor and one outdoor.	6/19/2020 6:41 AM
17	Masks should be required if service is indoors.	6/18/2020 11:34 PM
18	Determine the format for worship including the use of speakers and musicians who cannot wear a mask all the time during worship.	6/18/2020 8:48 PM
19	Virtual is OK but the sanctuary is not where God lives. Small groups would work.	6/18/2020 6:33 PM
20	Require masks to attend. We can make them if people don't have them. I think we can ask people to take their temperature and not attend if over 99. I am as anxious to return as anyone but don't think it is safe with incidents rising in Charlotte/Meck. I checked 4-6 wks but only if the virus load is lessening.	6/18/2020 5:43 PM
21	The online services are so appreciated. Thank you for all of the work that goes into making virtual service available.	6/18/2020 5:10 PM
22	It probably won't be safe for a few choir members to sing due to aerosols spraying. We could continue to record hymns as we have with just six in sanctuary and have them played during service. Or have instrumentals only. Congregational singing would be undafe.	6/18/2020 5:09 PM
23	I think our population contains at risk people. We need to do what is right for all. I think inside sanctuary worship is dangerous & will remain so on & off for the indefinite future. I think it will take making good judgement calls with flexibility as situation changes. I appreciate the care & responsible concern shown by our leadership.	6/18/2020 4:15 PM
24	Time to open	6/18/2020 4:10 PM

25	I believe that YouTube and Zoom should continue to be used in place of in-person gatherings.	6/18/2020 3:41 PM
26	Masks should be required consistent with CDC guidance. Wearing masks shows our concern for the health of others. It's a small act of self-sacrifice.	6/18/2020 3:15 PM
27	I feel that services should resume when we see NC cases and deaths decline instead of on the increase	6/18/2020 1:54 PM
28	Prayer/Obey existing best practices/Common sense.	6/18/2020 1:30 PM
29	I'd like to start with outdoor worship. We have a beautiful campus—surely there is space for a service to be conducted, at least on occasion.	6/18/2020 1:24 PM
30	Since this virus continues to be unstable and there is much conflicting information and the numbers are rising in states that have reopened, 4-6 is my hope but that depends wholly on what the numbers are then. Caregiving to three 90+ year olds makes every precaution necessary. I really miss being in the pew on Sundays though.	6/18/2020 1:23 PM
31	I think those that are less likely to be able to participate remotely should be given first preference in returning to in person worship. I am comfortable attending remotely and would gladly give up the space I would take up to someone else.	6/18/2020 12:51 PM
32	I believe Zoom or YouTube are the better vehicles for worshipping during this pandemic.	6/18/2020 12:45 PM
33	I cannot attend this Sunday but I am ready to return and we could start immediately, especially if we start outside, perhaps for just one service per Sunday for a few more weeks. I also feel its our duty to use all the precautions you list above. You could consider a reservation system for inside, established by the max with a 6' social distancing. ie, no more than 2 per pew unless family and every other pew? Just some thoughts. I also would like to say, you have ALL done a wonderful job keeping our congregation safe and not being Covid foolish! Thank you and God Bless!	6/18/2020 12:37 PM
34	All singing & passing of the peace should not be part of the service. Perhaps once a vaccine is available these can be restored. Zoom church is just not the same as being in the church with the PPC community. However I feel it is the best we've got until this pandemic is under control and our health is not at such a high risk.	6/18/2020 12:32 PM
35	Consider using the CLC for worship.	6/18/2020 11:37 AM
36	i really miss our in-person worship, especially Ron and his organ playing. I am very much enjoying the on-line services and appreciate them greatly!	6/18/2020 11:16 AM
37	We should follow CDC (Dr. Fauci) guidelines. Consider having service in CLC with chairs pre-positioned to meet distancing guidelines.	6/18/2020 11:12 AM
38	Choral singing is not a good idea in these times - maybe ok if we're outside and separated. . .	6/18/2020 10:45 AM
39	Feel like priority should be given to much older members attending an in-person, distanced worship service; some of these members don't use computers, so they have been even more isolated from the PPC family past few months. As a "younger member" (in my 50's), I'm willing to "give up my seat" (and continue with virtual worship) so that these older members can be together in person, which honors them. (Lev. 19:32)	6/18/2020 10:20 AM
40	Thank you so much for the virtual ones especially going Outside around on the campus. Masks should be required and extras available if person does not have one. Could have a donation basket to help with extra expense.	6/18/2020 10:17 AM
41	I'll be comfortable when folks who are high risk can be safe.	6/18/2020 9:48 AM
42	I think this would be an opportunity to make adjustments to the CLC gym that would make it more suitable (acoustically and otherwise) for worship.	6/18/2020 9:46 AM
43	We miss our church family and are praying for positive news that will make us feel more comfortable about being around large groups of people.	6/18/2020 9:39 AM
44	Prayers for virus control and omissions ☐☐	6/18/2020 9:37 AM
45	I don't have an answer here- but how does this affect families with children? Child care is probably not expected but they need to feel a part of our congregation even if they cannot come (like our elderly population,too)	6/18/2020 9:36 AM

46	while I am VERY eager to gather again, we are responsible for every other member and should take great care. IF we gather soon, we should take safety precautions, certainly masks and hand sanitizer, but also either outside or in the CLC where we can remain more physically distanced.	6/18/2020 9:31 AM
47	I think it depends on the data. How many are hospitalized and how many new cases as I am in the high risk group because of age and health. I would still want it taped so I could view it on line.	6/18/2020 9:30 AM
48	Based on current conditions, here are my thoughts: By waiting 3 weeks (until July 14), we should know if the current spikes can be controlled. Based on the weather forecast, the Friday newsletter could advise if service will be inside or outside. Masks should be worn in either case by everyone except small children. By now I think everyone should have one, but having some on-hand would eliminate that excuse. There should be no singing by the congregation and no contact with hymn books or Bibles in the pews. Reservations - using Sign-up Genius (SUG) or voicemail message - would be necessary to insure social distancing, especially inside, where a 3rd service might be needed. I believe Hunter Cleaning Services should sanitize the Sanctuary after each use. If outside, congregants should bring lawn chairs and maintain social distancing. (I have done this when attending a church at the beach.) Sign-ins may need to be done verbally to a Deacon (who has a copy of the SUG) to avoid communal contact with pen / register book. Paper programs should be prepared using sanitary methods and taken home by the congregants. Although hand sanitizer should be available, with these restrictions it shouldn't be necessary. I think we should ask attendees to take their own temperatures before coming. Because many people are asymptomatic, it may not be worth the risk to the individual assigned to take them. I want to commend the Church staff for their creativity and dedication to providing the weekly on-line worship services! Jill Maxwell	6/18/2020 9:28 AM
49	Require, not just encourage, face masks. No speaking or singing. Limit one family per pew in every third or fourth pew.	6/18/2020 9:24 AM
50	Conduct Sunday Service on Zoom to allow parishioners to be "present " during live service.	6/18/2020 9:23 AM
51	Mainly the 6' separation and wearing masks should be mandatory. Think we can do this either at the rock or in the courtyard. Time frame???? I'm not sure on that one!	6/18/2020 9:06 AM
52	1. REQUIRE masks & have some available for those who forget 2. Sign-in via video, photo, or audio documentation (no touching of pen & paper and queuing) 3. Restrooms could be limited by "one at a time" occupancy with signs on the doors 4. Electronic bulletins - maybe a few printed for those without devices (placed in airplane mode before departure!) 5. Emphasize skipping service if an individual feels the least bit ill in any way 6. BYO communion	6/18/2020 9:05 AM
53	I sincerely hope we continue to have the weekly YouTube worship video. I have found this to be an excellent opportunity for me to stay connected when I am unable to attend Sunday worship. Also, I would encourage initial Sunday worship gatherings to focus on those members of the Congregation who do not use the Internet or have been isolated for long periods without social interaction. I am willing to sacrifice attending in person in deference to others provided I can still watch the YouTube video.	6/18/2020 8:56 AM
54	Walt and Lal have done a great job with the recorded services to get us through this time.	6/18/2020 8:50 AM
55	we need to see a significant decrease in rate of infections/hospitalizations in Clt/Meck County before resuming normal services.	6/18/2020 8:45 AM
56	N/A	6/18/2020 8:35 AM
57	Although I checked not ready I WOULD be ready for outdoor restricted worship for those who wish to regather.	6/18/2020 7:48 AM
58	Thanks for being diligent about a reopening. If additional financial contributions are needed, please let us know.	6/18/2020 7:45 AM
59	Perhaps start with outside and hold 2 Sunday services: early a.m. (before too hot) and later in the day (evening). People bring own chairs. Social Distancing. Masks if using restrooms. Sanitizer available + sign-in. Have option of 2 services for early/late preference.	6/18/2020 7:36 AM
60	Outdoor services are a good idea if weather cooperates (heat and rain). They are difficult to plan because of the weather. We should be ok indoors if we closely adhere to safeguards.	6/18/2020 7:30 AM
61	When the increase in daily cases greatly lessens we will feel more comfortable in attending	6/18/2020 7:27 AM

worship services, meetings, Sunday school. Having a family member who falls into the higher risk category makes us much more cautious.

62	If the windows don't open in sanctuary, would be better to hold services in bldg that does or outside. I think CLT is at its peak which is why I think we should still hold off. Small mtgs are probably fine.	6/18/2020 7:20 AM
63	No bulletins or hymn books Bring our own Bibles , chairs or blankets, offering collected in a cloth bag, keep service short due to heat, encourage everyone to bring a paper fan	6/18/2020 7:08 AM
64	I think it would be good to start with outdoor services. You can use the CLC if necessary. There shouldn't be any singing or the that type of thing that causes particulate matter to float around the air. Thanks for doing this it'll be great to get back together	6/18/2020 7:05 AM
65	Start with 30-40 min service. Maybe 3-4 services so the gathering is more limited in #	6/18/2020 6:47 AM
66	A think no one would come if they are not feeling well or not comfortable. Surely everyone knows handwashing if huge before and after and mask if majority choose that. Outside with own chairs would be lovely when weather permitting OR inside if not. Maybe every other pew use??? I'm ready when in town	6/18/2020 6:46 AM
67	Although singing is an important part of our worship services, the act of singing can spread moisture droplets more than speaking. For now, consider limiting the amount of congregational singing - perhaps two verses of two hymns, or something similar - while requiring masks be worn during the service. (An exception might be made for ministers more than 10 feet from the congregants. Also, it would be a VERY good idea to have a way for members to sign up for the service they wish to attend, keeping the number of attendees at any service to a number that can be seated with social distancing in mind. Ushers can direct arriving worshipers to pews with spacing in mind to maintain social distancing. Instead of passing a collection plate for the offering, have one available in the narthex for congregants to place their offerings in. Encourage online giving, too, as a noncontact alternative. Indoor social distancing might be easier to achieve in the CLC instead of the sanctuary. (Indoor services obviously won't depend on the weather.)	6/18/2020 6:45 AM
68	Unfortunately, it seems that singing is a major source of "spread"...May be something that needs to be evaluated.	6/18/2020 6:21 AM
69	N/A	6/18/2020 4:51 AM