

**Potomac Presbyterian Church COVID-19
Returning to Public Worship Task Force
Recommendations for Session 8-10-20**

Overriding tenants of Return to Public worship:

- Adherence to state and local guidelines and CDC recommendations.
- Inclusion of all church members. There are some who will not be able/willing to return to public worship until there is a vaccine/cure. *Return to church in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us.*
- Implementation of changes that will likely be continued into the future.
- Get it right the first time. Rollercoaster analogy from National Capital Presbytery. *The Leadership Council agreed that our churches should not be in a hurry to re-open their facilities for in-person worship even though our jurisdictions are allowing it.* ~ John Molina-Moore NCP, General Presbyter, National Capital Presbytery

Recommendations for Return to Public Worship in the Sanctuary: -

- Factors such as temperature (doors will be open), local/state restrictions, need to be considered.
- Certain capabilities/adaptations need to be in place prior to opening for indoor services:
- Property Committee:
 - Live streaming capabilities
 - Projectors (2) for sanctuary: project the bulletin/responsive prayers/pre-recorded music
 - Foot door pulls, doors propped open
 - Signage reminding of social distancing/mask usage
 - Consider: Air purification systems for offices, possibly sanctuary/fellowship hall
- Finance Committee:
 - Collection containers for offering (consider “suggestion box” containers mounted on wall outside of/inside of sanctuary. Continued online giving (Realm)
- Worship Committee:
 - Attendance: Current guidelines require social distancing of 200 sq ft per “family unit” for houses of worship. See seating chart developed by Bob Stow and Stan Bissey. Recommend signing up online via a platform such as Signup genius by Friday 8 AM for Sunday morning service. Seating chart will then be determined based on the model and published via signup genius to those attending. This can then be used if there is a positive COVID-19 case for notification and contact tracing. Session will need to determine if those who “show up” without signing up or visitors will be allowed to worship in the sanctuary and how their attendance will be recorded.
 - Greeters/Ushers: Distanced and requesting use of hand sanitizer. Located Outdoors?

- Social distancing guidelines: Roping off pews, chairs positioned in Fellowship Hall (if needed for overflow), entrance/exit procedures (dismiss by pew. No “receiving line”. Encourage immediate exit from the building)
- Bulletins: Recommend no paper bulletins. Consider including bulletin in same email as seating chart for those attending in sanctuary worship or an all congregation email. Project bulletin on screen. If Session determines that it wants paper bulletins, they should be printed out and placed on pews based on seating chart no later than 48 hours prior to the service.
- Communion: Pre-packaged communion wafer/juice sets. Best practice would be to have the appropriate number of sets in place on pews based on the seating chart a minimum of 48 hours prior to the service. Congregants may lower masks to partake in the elements and should immediately replace their masks and hand sanitize afterwards. Congregants may also choose to take the elements home with them. Those whom consume the elements in the sanctuary should be encouraged to take the empty containers home with them or dispose of them in an open trash receptacle at the back of the sanctuary upon exiting.
- No singing: Per the PCUSA recommendations, “Since congregational singing and choral music are particularly risky activities when it comes to the spread of Covid-19, these elements of worship should be omitted when churches first return to public worship, until such a time as it is deemed safe.” Recommend instrumental only music (no wind instruments), pre-recorded hymns that can be projected onto the screens. Consider simple sign language prompts that can be taught and have congregants sign along with those words.
- Safety/Cleaning:
 - Masks required at all times
 - Adequate supply of hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, backup masks for those arriving without their own.
 - Review safety/security measures for the church with doors/window open during the service
- Personnel:
 - Consider adding someone who will be in charge of live streaming the services, trouble shoot technology issues, promote PPC’s virtual church option/outreach, IT