

Hello, Friends!

An increasing number of our congregation, and those around us are achieving "fully vaccinated" status. For that we are all thankful. At the same time portions of our country - and our world - are facing alarming infection increases with new and more resistant variants on the rise.

Understandably, your Session decided that investing a significant portion of last Sunday's (4/18/2021) meeting to discuss and deliberate how this progression could, but more importantly *should* impact our congregational life together was warranted.

We all agreed we're weary of the restrictions imposed upon us since the start of the pandemic, and recognize you are too. For that reason, we felt that our careful, thoughtful and prayerful consideration for the relaxation of certain restrictions was tantamount - as those decisions are being progressively granted to individual organizations.

With the dissolution of the Campus Reopening Task Force in last month's meeting, your Session has reassessed certain Covid-19 guidelines for our congregational life and we're outlining what's remaining and what's changing here:

- 1) Masks are to prevent the spread of the virus - including by individuals who are fully vaccinated. Your session requests that you respect our decision that masks will continue to be required for in person worship in the sanctuary.
- 2) Based on the most recent medical information, Congregational singing (softly) no longer presents the threat it did several months ago as long as congregants wear masks. So let us all sing freely and joyously, albeit from behind our masks - for the time being. This too shall pass.
- 3) Sanctuary entrance and exit restrictions - The southwest door (by the restrooms) will no longer be restricted, and will be open before the service and available for use to exit following worship.
- 4) Dismissal by pew rows following worship - Worshippers are asked to continue to respect Social Distancing guidelines, but no longer need to await usher dismissal by row. However, if you gather to visit after exiting the sanctuary, please respect others who may not be as comfortable with the way things appear to be moving as you are, and move to a location at least six feet from the main exit. You should still be able to remain under the shade of the front entrance awning.
- 5) At the behest of the Fellowship Commission, a time of fellowship is being reinstated following worship in the courtyard beginning this Sunday. To the best of your abilities, please respect your Session's masking and social distancing guidelines.

In Christ,
Session