September 13,2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, I am speaking both as head of trustees, and lay leader. I have good news to share: Bishop McKee has said that in-person worship in the North Central Texas Metro District can begin again on Sunday, October 4th.

On September 4, Pastor Javier, Ryan, and I attended Bishop McKee’s Zoom meeting to prepare for re-opening. Bishop McKee began with a warning that his permission for in-person services was dependent on the spread and progress of the Covid-19 virus as we move into the Fall and Winter months. If at any time that public safety becomes an issue, that permission could be withdrawn. Here are some words of advice that Bishop McKee gave us for our consideration in worship planning:

* Smaller is better than larger.
* Outside is better than inside.
* Not singing is better than singing.
* Masks should be required.
* No service of food or beverages will be allowed.
* No paper, hymnals or orders of worship, will be used.
* All government mandated safety protocols (such as: social distancing, hygiene, and sanitation must be followed.

The church’s current staff and volunteers will need help. Some of the areas and items include donations of cash or kind for cleaning supplies such as:

* Lysol spray,
* Clorox wipes,
* disposable masks,
* face shields
* paper towels,
* reusable plastic spray bottles
* trash bags, both tall kitchen-sized and 35 gallon,
* hand sanitizer,
* bottled water.
* gun-type digital thermometer.

We appreciate your continued service, but also desperately need volunteers for:

* + additional ushers,
  + temperature takes,
  + help with sanitizing and resetting the worship area and bathrooms between services,
  + help with running the projector screens during worship.
  + help with maintaining the sanctuary, education building, and grounds.
  + help with children’s church.

We also need your prayers, love, support and patience as we try to move forward and embrace the ‘new normal’ in whatever forms that it will present itself.

In Love and Faith,

Karen Eaker

Chair of Trustees, and Lay Leader

Casa Emanu-El UMC