

The Pastor's Cabinet presented the following updated and improved Covid Protocol recommendations to the General Board for approval on September 8, 2021

"The main objective of the Cabinet throughout this pandemic has been the safety of everyone who enters the church. Continuing with that goal, the Pastor's Cabinet makes the following recommendations to the General Board for its acceptance and approval.

1. These revised protocols will become effective upon Board approval.
2. Entrance and exit from the church will be by the rear door.
3. Masks will continue to be required by everyone entering the church. This is to protect the children, who cannot yet be vaccinated, as well as other vulnerable groups.
4. Beginning Sunday, September 12th, the church will return to the practice of four deacons collecting the offering from the congregation in the pews. Additionally, communion cups will continue to be offered but communion trays will be passed, as in the past, to the congregation by the deacons. A small table, with bulletins, will be at the entrance to the Narthex.
5. Commencing Sunday, September 12th, two elders will return to present the bread and cup. After the blessing, the elders will provide the communion plates to the deacons for distribution. The elder serving the bread will have the prayer at the table. The elder serving the cup will be responsible for registering attendance of all who come for worship.
6. Everyone entering the church building is required to wear a mask and sign in on the sheet available on the bulletin board. At Sunday worship, attendance will be registered by an elder.
7. We will continue to social distance by leaving every other pew empty. The red yarn previously used will be removed and the pew cushion, in an up position, will indicate the pew is to remain empty. Guides will continue to seat everyone entering the Sanctuary and will also excuse worshippers, by row, at the end of the service.
8. We will continue to enjoy worship music without congregational singing. We hope that congregational singing and the choir will be added back to worship during the Fall.
9. Children may go to the front of the Sanctuary for the Children's Message. Children Worship & Wonder is now available and participating children will leave by the side door.
10. Water fountains will remain closed.
11. Outside groups will be permitted to use the church, under the same conditions as set forth above (including entry/exit, wearing masks, signing in, and social distancing in the Sanctuary). Weddings shall not be permitted yet; however, memorial services requested by members of the congregation will be permitted. Upon request for the Sanctuary to be utilized for a memorial service, the funeral director or whomever is making the request will be informed of the required protocols.
12. The Literacy Council has restarted its classes. All participants must be vaccinated, masks must be worn at all times, except when one on one tutoring is taking place, and class sizes have been reduced. The Council currently utilizes two rooms as offices and three rooms for tutoring. If additional space is required a request must be made through the church secretary.
13. Zoom services will continue for worship and meetings if desired."

A motion to accept this revised Covid Protocol was made by Linda Reese and 2nd by Connie Sheller. The motion carried.