

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The elders and pastors met yesterday to review our situation as a church in a COVID-19 constrained environment. We started with a discussion on adding a 3rd worship service to accommodate a growing number of worshippers attending Sunday services. Current distancing constraints limit the number of worshippers in the sanctuary and CMC and adding a 3rd service is one approach to spreading out worshippers.

After discussing alternatives, the elders voted instead to expand seating in the CMC by adding several rows of distanced chairs and in the sanctuary by adding a seating space in the middle of alternate pews in between the pews with seating at the ends. The ushers and elders on duty will seat people so that these mid-pew spots are occupied by singles as much as possible and by no more than 2 people in order to assure safe distance from the folks in the pews to their front and rear.

Worshippers who normally attend the 8:30 service are invited to consider trying the 11:00 service which has generally had lower attendance. Worshippers are encouraged to come early if you want to sit in the sanctuary at either service. Once sanctuary seats are filled, worshippers will be directed to join worship in the CMC. It was acknowledged that conducting a 3rd service on Sunday or possibly Saturday will probably be necessary at some time in the future as worship service attendance increases to exceed this expanded seating.

Several members either can't or prefer not to wear a mask during worship. Three seating spots for 2 people each will be set up in the nursery room at each service for those who can't wear a mask. Another option is to attend the open taping sessions on Wednesday or Thursday which are now mask-optional. For those who are particularly vulnerable, worshipping online at home and

drive through communion on Sunday from 9:45 - 10:30 are still options as is a home visit, with communion, from a pastor.

We also discussed resuming some form of Bible study on Sundays (or other days) and agreed that we wanted to plan for that in the not-too-distant future, but Sunday mornings do not seem feasible currently with services at 8:30 and 11:00 and the drive-through communion in between.

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of these measures or if you have recommendations on how we might make church better for you in this challenging time.

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