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Parkway Family:

We recognize the impact that the COVID 19 Pandemic has had upon our world, nation, community and individuals within our Church family. The impact has not been small and will continue to be felt.

National, regional, and now county officials have indicated that we are ready to explore a strategic return to activities which include work, social interaction, and worship. To that end your leadership has worked tirelessly over the last several weeks building what we feel is a realistic phased plan to re-gather as a body of believers. This plan is being created with local, state, and national directives with the understanding that as an entity of St. Louis County, we will follow direct guidance from our local officials.

Recommendations on houses of worship and public gatherings from respected organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as the St. Louis County Health Department, and denominational leaders will and must be followed, both for the physical safety of our congregation, as well as the legal protection of our organization.

On Sunday, May 24th we will begin Phase 1. What does this mean?

- Sunday Worship will be provided through livestream from our Worship Center with only essential personnel present. We are excited for this first step back as our stay-at-home order ends.
- Bible Study groups and all other ministries will continue to meet virtually when possible and appropriate.

Your staff and leadership have been working since the stay-at-home order began gathering supplies and setting procedures to make sure a safe environment for everyone is in place when we can worship together again in person. As you might imagine, attaining these essential supplies, which are in high demand, is challenging. We must also meet the social distancing requirements in relation to our worship gathering locations, as set by the St. Louis County Executive (which we currently are unable to do in our regathering plan). When we are able to, we will continue to move to Phase Two.

What will the move to Phase Two mean?

- We will cautiously resume in-person worship, offering multiple services to adhere to social distancing directives.
- All other ministries, including groups, will continue to be virtual.
- The building will only be open to the public during worship hours.
- Some changes to expect – including but not limited to . . .
 - Reservations will be taken to provide available socially distanced space for different sized family groups
 - Hand sanitation will be required upon entry.
 - Facemasks/face coverings may be required.
 - Contactless service – no bulletins, coffee stations, hymnals, water fountain, etc.
 - Individuals who are in high risk populations or are immune compromised will be encouraged to consider their participation with caution and care and should consider continuing to view our livestream for their safety.
 - Sanitation of every surface of each room used between each service will be required.

Moving from Phase 1 to Phase 2 is a huge hurdle. Your staff and leadership are working tirelessly to make sure everything is in place so a smooth, safe transition can be made, and that new teams are trained to handle our new normal. We do not have a date yet for this transition, and as said it will depend upon continued county phases opening our ability to meet in larger groups.

One thing we must never forget . . . God is still at work at Parkway Baptist Church. Even through hardships that many of us are going through right now, we can trust that God is not surprised, and is asking us to turn to Him for wisdom and guidance. Please join us in prayer in the weeks and months to come, turning to Him for our trust and hope.

Many Blessings.

Pastor Dwight Blankenship and the Parkway Staff