



## **Covenant to Care for One Another at United Church of Christ in New Brighton During a Time of Pandemic**

This covenant expresses the commitment of the UCCNB community to care for one another's well-being during formal and informal gatherings during a time of pandemic. The church leadership commits to using evidence-based data as we make decisions about when and how we come together in person, and to continuing exploration of safe community-making opportunities, whether in person or online. Members of the UCCNB community commit to following safety guidelines established by the leadership as we use the church facility or come together in small or larger gatherings. UCCNB, by adopting this covenant, say to each other and to all who come into this community that we seek to be safe and respectful of one another, and in so doing honor the God who calls us into ministry together.

### **In all UCCNB-related gatherings of two or more people during the time of pandemic we will:**

- *Wear face coverings over nose and mouth.*
- *Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet between individuals or household groups.*
- *Use hand sanitizer before and after touching objects that may be touched by others.*
- *Follow sanitizing instructions posted in restrooms.*
- *Refrain from all activities that create higher risk, such as singing (except as determined to be safe by worship leaders), sharing paper, food or drink.*
- *Congregational singing is a higher-risk activity and will not be included in UCCNB worship services during the pandemic. Pre-recording of any vocal music is strongly encouraged. If a video recording is used, arrange with one of the church's AV techs to play the recording during the service. If pre-recording is not possible, a maximum of 2 vocal musicians may participate in a service as long as they are able to maintain a distance of at least 15 feet from each other and all other attendees while singing. This applies also to wind instruments.*
- *Respectfully follow guidance from Safety Stewards designated for each gathering.*

### **Additional guidelines as we begin small in-person gatherings**

- *All in-person gatherings shall designate a Safety Steward to assist with mindfulness of and adherence to safety guidelines.*
- *Groups of 5 people or fewer may meet inside the church, following the guidelines above, IF ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE COMFORTABLE DOING SO. Gatherings should be conducted via Zoom or other electronic means if necessary, for the safety or comfort of all participants. In-person gatherings should be held in a large enough room to ensure safe distancing.*
- *The worship team will take all possible safety precautions while in the sanctuary – masks except when speaking, maintaining safe distance, etc.*
- *No more than one person at a time will be working in the church office, due to the limited and crowded space. One other person may enter for a single purpose such as putting something in a mailbox, remaining no longer than 2 minutes and maintaining a safe distance from the person working.*
- *Larger groups may gather outdoors if:*
  - *There is adequate space to maintain 6-foot distances among all except those from the same household, including when entering or leaving any gathering.*
  - *Participants remain masked except when eating or drinking.*
  - *Participants bring their own chairs, food, beverages, and do not share beyond their own household.*