

Dear City Reformed,

At our congregational meeting in March I laid out our plans for the ramping up of our reopening this spring. We envision a process that begins after Easter on **April 11**, and continues until mid-summer. Our hope is that by mid-summer we can remove all COVID constraints and operate pretty close to "normal."

Our goal for this transition period of reopening is to **include as many people as possible, in-person, safely**. In order to achieve this goal, we will be shifting our services. But we will also maintain our safety practices and communicate our expectations clearly in advance. We believe that this creates an environment in which we can encourage each member to participate in some of these in-person events.

During this transition phase, that we are calling "reopening", there are three key features:

- 1) We will split our **Sunday morning services into two**. They will be identical and both will be inside at WT. They will be held at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.
  - a. We will continue to regulate our attendance numbers and ask people to sign up in advance for the morning services. (This will ensure people are spaced between the two.)
- 2) We will combine our **Sunday evening communion service into one outdoor service at WT**.
  - a. We will not require any sign-ups for our PM service, because we are not concerned about capacity seating in that venue. But we will continue to check in those who attend upon arrival for contact tracing purposes.
- 3) For both services, **we will continue our COVID reduction practices** until mid-summer.
  - a. We will continue mandatory masking. (This only applies to church sponsored indoor events and outdoor events where there is singing.) We will ask all people – weather vaccinated or not – to participate in this so as to avoid a confusing group setting.
  - b. We will continue spacing at events.
  - c. We ask people to evaluate their own behavior to minimize risk and wash hands frequently.

We have continued to develop plans for how our children's ministry is restarting. While this is still a work in progress, we can share that we anticipate the following:

- 1) Children's Church will restart more quickly than other things, since we understand best how to hold this activity safely. After a period of observation in April, we aim to begin holding children's church in a limited capacity in early May.
- 2) We will continue to plan for reopening nursery. While we understand the importance of this for many parents, we believe that this will likely happen a little further into the reopening transition.
- 3) We will not restart Sunday School this academic year, since we normally end Sunday School in late Spring anyway.

One of the main constraints for reopening children's ministry is to determine how many volunteers are able to help. This turns our attention to the larger issue of our need for volunteers during this reopening phase. In order to assess the readiness of our members to participate in volunteer ministries, we are attaching a google form that will allow members to indicate what they will help with and when. We will discuss this google form during the announcements after worship on Sunday March 28.

Let's work together to reopen safely, to include as many people, in-person, as possible, and to love each other well in this final phase of the COVID pandemic.

Please join us in prayer.

Please determine how you can best begin to join us for in-person activities.

Please consider how you can volunteer.

In Christ,  
Matt