



**TOGETHER AGAIN! SEPTEMBER 20TH!**  
Re-launch the Church - COVID-19  
Guidelines for Places of Worship

*“We pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face”.*  
1 Thessalonians 3:10

The Re-launch the Church Task Force thanks God that we will once again be able to offer in-person gatherings for prayer and worship in our sanctuary. We will be adhering to the guideline documents developed by Toronto and Durham Public Health. We will do everything possible to provide a safe environment and processes that make our church family comfortable as we transition to in-person worship. This communication document will outline the processes we will follow upon our return September 20th. The message will also outline some of the programs/services that will remain suspended until we can move to the next phase.

#### Arriving at Church

- Physical distancing will be maintained through the use of pylons outside and floor markers inside the church.
- The flow of individuals will encourage one-way movement to prevent crowding and encourage physical distancing.
- Those members requiring assistance will be given priority entry. There will be volunteers stationed at both levels of the elevator to support members using it. Elevator attendants will not enter to lift with those requiring elevator use.

#### What will each of us do to keep all of us safe?

- Everyone must wear a face covering for the duration of the service. Worship leaders and pastor is exempt when engaged in the service.
- Everyone will be screened and registered upon entering the church.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all key areas and throughout the church.
- We will follow the directions of the volunteers.
- Children will remain with their parents throughout the service. Children won't be permitted to have the freedom to “socialize”.

#### How will we be kept safe?

- There will be volunteers helping us follow the guidelines every step of the way.
- We will have a video that walks you through the process.
- We will provide hand sanitizer stations outside the main entrance, at the registration table inside the main entrance doors and key areas throughout the church.

- The pews have been marked to ensure a six foot distance exists between the seats and pews.
- You will likely not be sitting in your usual seat. The volunteers will assist with seating patterns to ensure distancing while maximizing our capacity.
- All cushions have been removed and stored. If you require a seating cushion, please bring one and take it back home with you following the service.
- There will be a specific section designated for those with walkers, wheelchairs and needing help and well as our elderly.
- There will be a specific exit strategy. The majority will leave through the south east door. The members with walkers, wheelchairs and elderly will be guided out via the elevator or stairs to the main entrance.
- The washrooms on the entrance level will not be open for use. The washrooms on the second level will be open. A volunteer will ensure entry of only one individual at a time. There will be sanitizing wipes available to wipe down touch surfaces after each use.
- Areas will be blocked off to limit areas where surfaces must be cleaned. The lower level washroom (used by staff), library and mailboxes will not be available.
- All Sunday school and Nursery rooms will be closed as per the guidelines. No entry please.
- Indoor singing, even with a face covering, and the use of wind instruments is suspended. The worship team is permitted to sing without face covering while on stage and socially distanced.
- We will not pass collection plates. The collection will be taken in plates at the door where you exit.
- Passing of the elements for communion will not be permitted. A 'communion kit' which includes juice and a wafer will be provided upon your arrival for participation during a communion service.
- Baptism, upon request, will be conducted in a modified manner outside of our regular worship services.
- Signage will be posted to help us navigate through this transition.
- We will be cleaning as per the guidelines with Canada approved sanitizer.

#### What parts of our church life will remain suspended?

- We cannot sing; even with a mask/face covering
- We are unable to offer Sunday school and nursery care during this time.
- No coffee or refreshments following the service. Social gathering in the church building is discouraged.
- All Ministry programs (Cadets, Gems, Youth, Alpha, Bible Study groups, Senior's coffee, etc.) and other church use (band, meetings, rentals) cannot be permitted in-church use at this time.
- Our Ministry Programs are encouraged to evolve and look at ways to provide programs on-line

- Council, deacon and committee meetings will continue to be held via Zoom

We have looked forward to returning to church and worshiping together as a church family. We know it will disappoint some members that our services will be so different from what we have known. The Task Force Team has been dedicated to following the public health guidelines. They are reviewed weekly to ensure we are up-to-date with changes.

We have been blessed with good health throughout the pandemic. We are now fortunate to be in a position to meet in the sanctuary for worship. We pray that we will continue to be able to implement more activity as we move into the fall.

*“No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.”*

1 Corinthians 10:13

Kindest regards,

The COVID Re-launch Team,

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