

July Reconnection Plan

OUR OBJECTIVE

The main goal in July is to carefully regather as a congregation, renewing in-person fellowship and worship opportunities. As we do, our hope is that together we can discern a way forward. This means understanding what will be permissible and possible for us to plan for worship services and ministry programming in the coming months. It is important that we do not stay in limbo but move forward on God's mission. This plan includes the weekly posting of worship and sermon videos to our website and YouTube channel for those who will not be able to reconnect due to health considerations.

CURRENT CONTEXT

A few weeks ago, our denominational leaders shared, *"Fellowship Pacific has been part of a series of telephone town-hall style meetings with Premier Horgan, Health Minister Adrian Dix, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, and the faith communities of British Columbia. As recently as June 3 they clarified that they anticipate the fifty-person cap on gatherings to continue into the fall and likely through the normal influenza season."* In addition to provincial health guidelines, we are waiting for SD 42 to restart school rentals. On June 24, our premier announced that our province is now in "phase three" response to COVID-19. However, orders for "mass gathering events" from the Ministry of Health (May 22, 2020) remain in effect. Gatherings of more than fifty people are still not permitted.

Please keep in mind that more than just "being together" we need to be "on mission". As our Fellowship Pacific ministry team has encouraged, *"This time allows for reflection and adjustment on such things as deep discipleship, true worship, meaningful community, and individual responsibility for the gospel. As a family of churches, we encourage you to use this time to intentionally review and focus your ministries."* Considering this, our **July Reconnection Plan** offers us an opportunity to evaluate a home group strategy for church services that could take us well into the fall, especially as school rentals are uncertain. In our first gathering we hope to have a "town-hall" discussion about these home group gatherings, which may be more sustainable for us over the long term. We do know that if they are done well, this [missional community model](#) helps to keep a congregation focused on the mission of sharing the Gospel and discipling.

RE-GATHERING

For the four Sundays in July we are inviting you to Maple Woods for a socially distanced gathering of up to fifty people. Each Friday you will be given an opportunity in the **Cornerstone Connector** to respond to an RSVP (by email) so that we can know the number of attenders for Sunday. Because of continued coronavirus conditions there will be no children's programming. Consideration was given to meeting outdoors. However, our Leadership Team felt that the best option was to have an indoor setting, even though it will not be the same as our typical worship services. Each Sunday we will have some worship, a sermon, and conversation around next steps. These might take the form of some breakout groups following the message. Just as other facilities are requested to keep a record of attendees, we will keep a weekly log of all who attend in order to allow for contact tracing if necessary. For simplicity, this may take the form of a pictorial record of each service (no photos will be posted or published).

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

It is our goal to meet all safety guidelines laid out by Provincial Health Authorities and from WorkSafe BC. Detailed regulations are available from the [BCCDC](#) and include such things as physical distancing, regular disinfecting, and handwashing. We are even considering the limiting singing simply out of concern for safe practices. As you enter Maple Woods for the gathering, you will be greeted, offered hand-sanitizer, and reminded of the following safety reminders.

- **How to interact**

Social distancing remains an important way of limiting the spread of COVID-19 so you will be asked to refrain from shaking hands, hugging, and being too close. Seating will provide for distance between households. Personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves are not expected. However, if you prefer to wear a mask or gloves you are welcomed to do so.

- **Cleaning and sanitizing**

As noted, hand sanitizer ([Vital Oxide](#)) will be provided and will be used to disinfect our gathering space. We will ensure that washrooms are cleaned and disinfected in accordance with BCCDC guidelines. Naturally, we are asking each attendee to practice good hygiene, including regular hand washing, avoiding touching your face, and covering coughs or sneezes. In order to simply cleanliness, coffee may not be served.

- **When to stay at home**

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19, has travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days, or has been in close contact with a person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate in accordance with provincial guidelines. Of course, please stay at home if you have any cold or flu symptoms, including coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, and fatigue. The sermon presented at the in-person gathering will also be available on our website and YouTube channel.

YOUR HELP

The first step you can take with our **July Reconnection Plan** is to **participate prayerfully**. We understand that there will be some in our congregation who cannot attend due to health considerations. We are also eager to honor the fifty-person cap on large gatherings, but our sense is that we will easily fit within this guideline. Though our service will be much simpler, and some equipment will not be needed, we will still need to set up chairs. We could also use some volunteers to help with sanitizing areas prior to our gathering. All volunteers must abide by the **Reconnection Plan - Volunteer Guidelines**. If you wish to help, please contact one of the Leadership Team in advance of Sunday.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Leadership Team members.

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