Statement re COVID-19 to the

People of East Plains United Church

April 14, 2022

The COVID-19 Re-entry Committee has made the decision to re-open the Church for in-person worship effective immediately and continuing on an on-going basis in the future.  **The first service will be Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.**

Understanding the COVID Situation:

Two years ago, with the COVID-19 virus having become “**pandemic**” (ie everywhere in the world), the COVID-19 Re-entry Committee made a commitment to the congregation that we would not open in-person worship until we judged it was medically “safe” to do so, taking into account the older age grouping of our people who were known to be more subject to COVID infection and morbidity.

Unfortunately, the COVID virus is not over and is not going away, but rather is entering the “**endemic**” (living on indefinitely with us) stage. Also it is unfortunate that we are now into a sixth wave of COVID infection caused by the Omicron BA2 variant. Thus we cannot guarantee complete “medical safety” from COVID infection as we re-open in-person worship at the church.

However, governments, institutions, companies and places of worship are proceeding to open for usual human endeavours. This is being done by virtue of giving personal agency to all persons to determine for themselves the levels of safety with which they are comfortable, and all the while encouraging everyone to continue 1) maximizing their immunity with vaccinations and boosters unless personally unable to do so, 2) wearing face masks in public gatherings, 3) exercising social distancing, 4) practicing frequent hand washing after contact with shared objects or surfaces, and 5) remaining isolated for proscribed periods of time at home when infected or after contact with infected or test positive persons.

We are continuing these listed practices at East Plains United Church and we request and encourage you to participate in them in order to provide as much safety as possible for you and for your fellow participants. We also encourage you to decide what is best for you and your situation.