

## PLAN for RE-ENGAGING IN-PERSON MINISTRIES

June 3, 2020

Dear Bretton Woods family,

After more than twelve weeks of a completely different church experience, it is clear that BWCC never closed or went away. We have **loved God** through participation in Facebook Live worship gatherings, Bible studies, and spiritual practices. We have **been the church** through phone calls, Zoom chats, drive-thrus at the church, and physically distanced home visits. We have **blessed the world** by raising \$2,495 for clean water in the Democratic Republic of Congo through World Vision's Global 6K for Water, through sewing masks for countless organizations and individuals, and through our continued support of the mission and ministry of the Great Lakes Conference and the Evangelical Covenant Church. The building may be closed, but the church is as alive as ever!

But as embodied people who serve an incarnate God and King, we long to be face-to-face. Some days, we are desperate for human contact, and we long for the physical presence of our church family. *We long for what we love.*

And we also long to protect the vulnerable in our midst, to love our neighbor by not potentially exposing them to a somewhat unknown but in many cases deadly virus. *We must act lovingly to the ones we love.*

We keep both of these guideposts in mind as we plan to re-engage in-person ministries—longing to be with our church family, and our central mission to love our neighbor and one another.

Below, you will find the sketch of a 3-phase plan for re-engaging in-person ministries. The best way to lovingly re-engage is to keep COVID-19 away from the people of BWCC, so please keep the following in mind:

- Take your temperature. If you have a fever or any symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness, please stay home until you are symptom free and fully recovered, and enjoy our continued online ministries via Facebook Live, Zoom and our website bwcc.net.
- If you have been exposed to anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home for at least 14 days after exposure and/or until you are symptom free, and enjoy our continued online ministries via Facebook Live, Zoom and our website bwcc.net.

So in humility, and based on the best information we have right now, our plan for those who are healthy and ready to re-engage with some forms of in-person ministry will take place over a period of three phases.

### **PHASE 1**

What: *Permission for small groups of 10 or less to gather.*

In this phase, you may gather in small groups in your homes for Bible studies, meals, or to participate in our online services or studies.

When: Small groups of 10 or less can begin meeting in homes right now, and we ask you to consider risk factors and maintain 6-foot physical distancing precautions when doing so. Now that Michigan's stay-at-home order has been lifted, small groups of ten or less can begin using the church basement and after notifying Pastor Andrew and/or members of the BWCC Leadership Team.

### **PHASE 2**

What: *Permission for a limited gathering in the sanctuary on Sunday for a worship service only, while we continue to stream gatherings on Facebook Live and bwcc.net for everyone else.*

In this phase, roughly 25 family units will be able to gather in the sanctuary for the Sunday worship gathering. Ushers will direct you to seating areas marked out on the pews to allow for safe physical distancing. People may enter the building 15 minutes before the service begins and will be asked to leave shortly after the conclusion of the worship gathering. The wearing of protective masks will be the norm in Phase 2, and masks will be made available for those who don't have one to wear during the worship gathering. During phase 2, there will be no pre-service classes, Nursery or Children's Church, or Fellowship time after the gathering.

When: Once government restrictions have been lifted and churches are allowed to publicly gather again, we will initiate a minimum 4 week waiting period to assess the situation in our area, giving special attention to churches and other public gatherings that decide to re-engage right away. This means if restrictions were lifted today, June 3, (*and to be clear, they are not*), the *very earliest* we would move into Phase 2 would be 4 weeks later, which would be Sunday, July 5. Once restrictions are eventually lifted, by the end of 4 weeks, the Leadership Team will discern and decide whether we will enter Phase 2 right after that 4 weeks, or if we think it wise to delay.

### **PHASE 3**

What: *Relaxing Sunday worship gathering restrictions and re-engaging in-person children & youth ministries and food & fellowship ministries with updated safety procedures.*

When: Once we enter Phase 2, the Leadership Team will continue evaluating the risk factors in our area and clarify procedures for children & youth ministries to keep the environment clean and sanitary and implement safer practices to minimize risk of virus spread. We will also confirm new guidelines for food preparation, service, and physical distancing to minimize risk. The Leadership Team will decide to implement elements of Phase 3 once we are confident that it is safe to do so.

We acknowledge that Phase 3 might be a long way off, and we will not rush into it, but will continue to pray, discern, and consult the wisdom of an array of practitioners and experts, as we have done since we unexpectedly found ourselves navigating this global pandemic in mid-March.

As always, we seek to lead with love, wisdom, and most of all, the Spirit's guidance.

*<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~Philippians 4:6-7*

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Andrew Gates  
and the *BWCC Leadership Team*  
Sig Langenberg  
Joe Crupper  
Brenda Greene  
Laurie Frisbie  
Dan Carter  
Kathy Carter  
Brett Grimes  
Marilyn Jenks