

August 27, 2020

Dear Eastminster Family,

This past week your session took action to approve several recommendations from the Re-opening Task Force. Current re-opening protocols run through the end of August. After receiving feedback from Session committees, the task force met on August 16, 2020, to formulate recommendations on re-opening beginning September 2020 and ending November 2020. Session approved the following:

1. If a congregant who has recently attended services tests positive for COVID or if a staff member tests positive for COVID, the church should follow CDC and local health department protocols.
2. Regarding worship services, the current safety protocols will remain in place and the following changes will be made to the service. There will be a solo hymn after the Invocation to add more music and to help with the liturgical flow. We will also add congregational singing of the Gloria Patri in order to enhance participation. In addition, some members of session will serve as worship leader to assist Trey when needed and to ensure a second person is behind the pulpit for a more cohesive service.
3. Adult Sunday school classes and youth Sunday school classes/fellowship may meet in person *if they so choose*, provided they follow safety protocols including social distancing and wearing masks. They are also asked to disinfect the surfaces in the room when they are finished. Any classes currently meeting virtually of course may continue to do so.
4. Movie nights scheduled by the Children's Fellowship Committee are typically held outside. Session granted this group permission to move inside the church in case of rain. They may also serve bottled water and pre-packaged snacks.
5. A church member has suggested that time be set aside each week for congregants to come to the sanctuary to pray. Session approved this with the following guidelines: participants must schedule an appointment before they come in, use a designated portion of the sanctuary, refrain from entering any other parts of the building, and wear a mask and practice social distancing.
6. Any church committee may meet in the church, provided they notify the church office of when they are coming and where they will be meeting. They should also wear masks, practice social distancing, and clean up after themselves. Each committee's decision to meet in person should be unanimous so that no member feels excluded.
7. Session granted the Bible Study Fellowship group continued use of our facility. They provided us with detailed guidelines they will follow including cleaning the church thoroughly after their meetings. This will begin the week of October 20th and is subject to change.
8. For all other events, coordinators should ask Session for approval.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Irmischer, clerk of session.
(sirmscher105@gmail.com; 812-483-0002)

In Christ,

Session of Eastminster Presbyterian Church