Report from the Senior Minister to the Governing Board
Concerning Re-Opening In-Person Worship

September 14, 2020

At the heart of our dilemma is the fact that we are living in the tension between our love and desire for worship and fellowship and the law of loving one's neighbor which begins with doing no harm to the vulnerable among us.

With that in mind let us consider:

1.) The need to maintain safe physical distance (minimum of six feet apart and the appropriate wearing of face coverings.)
2.) Keeping childcare facilities closed. Children would need to remain with parents.
3.) Encouraging those at risk due to age or underlying health conditions to stay home.
4.) Requiring those who have been feeling sick or feverish in the last 72 hours, or have been in contact with anyone who has been sick in the last 14 days to remain home.
5.) No bulletins or worship aids to be handed out.
6.) No congregational singing (aside from humming into your mask!)
7.) No coffee hour or other mingling before and after.
8.) Proper cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms, seating, and other high touch surfaces before and after each service.
9.) Refrain from passing collection plates.

Many guidelines also suggest not hosting indoor gatherings until cases locally have declined for 14 consecutive days.

If we can meet these conditions, we could mark out up to 35 "places" in the main sanctuary and 17 in the balcony. Those places could accommodate more than 1 person if they are from the same household. We would need to plan entrance and egress paths that would not bring any of the participants within 6 feet of each other.

Choral music will not be possible for the foreseeable future. Small ensembles which can be appropriately distanced would be the best we can do.

It is our intention to continue to record and broadcast services even after we open for in-person participation. Our staff is committed, and has plans in place, to do that at the highest level of quality possible.