

As communicated a couple of weeks ago, Pastor Christine asked a group of Centenarians to begin meeting to address what the conference guidelines will look like for Centenary United Methodist Church, and we are calling this group the Action Team. The Action Team has started reviewing the guidelines issued through the Illinois Great Rivers Conference directed by Bishop Frank Beard, and those guidelines have been developed based on the regions and phases of Governor Pritzker's plan.

Some things to initially consider are:

- We likely won't be gathering in larger than 10 for quite a while and larger than 50 until our communities are clear or there is effective treatment.
- Social distancing practices of wearing masks, keeping six-feet apart, and avoiding interpersonal contact will continue to be the norm.
- People over 60 years old, those with compromised immunity, those with respiratory illness or injury, or others who are at a higher risk of dying from COVID-19 will want to remain isolated and avoid gatherings of any size until they are given the all-clear.

The top priority for the team is preparing our building for reopening with deep cleaning, ensuring safety and responsibility when the church office returns to regular hours of operations, and how we can safely move to in-person worship and activities at a future date. Activities have begun including ensuring adequate supplies, understanding our insurance policies, availability of providing masks to anyone entering our facility, displaying appropriate signage, replacing air filters, and cleaning arrangements.

One recommendation that we would like to share at this time is not pursuing "Drive-in Church services" at this time. Since Drive-In services include remaining in vehicles with windows rolled up during this Phase, the Action Team felt that the benefits of being a visible community were outweighed by the restrictions, along with the challenges of broadcasting the service that we were not confident we could overcome.

There is a substantial amount of work and planning that needs to be

done. Guidance may change and be updated as new information and updated public health guidelines become available. The Action Team will continue to provide regular communication on guidance and recommendations as we continue to minister with and serve our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action Team:
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