

The following is a working document that aims to outline a multi-phase approach for Saint Andrew Christian Church to begin meeting in person as the COVID-19 pandemic begins to decline. This plan and the phases outlined have been created through a process of research, discernment, and prayer. Primary resources consulted include: the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the City of Kansas City Missouri, the Jackson County Missouri Health Department, the Mid America Regional Counsel KC Region COVID-19 Resource Hub, the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health COVID-19 Back to School Playbook (“University of Nebraska Guidelines”) and the Creekwood Christian Church Overall Detailed Plan to Resume in Person.

As our leadership and staff have engaged in discussions, spent time in prayer, and considered how we can be as faithful and safe as possible, these guidelines will help us determine 1) the necessary criteria to be met in order to meet in person, 2) what precautionary measures we will take to ensure public safety and faithful practice, and 3) how each of our ministry areas will be impacted by these changes.

PHASE 1 OF RETURNING TO THE SAINT ANDREW CAMPUS

Phase 1 may begin when we have seen 14 days of decline in COVID-19 cases in Johnson, Wyandotte and Jackson (Missouri) County—the three primary counties wherein our members reside. In addition, the cases must be “controlled,” meaning they are below 50 new cases per million as explained in the University of Nebraska Guidelines. Upon reaching 14 days of decline in COVID cases, we can resume in person worship meetings with the following safety precautions in place:

- Sanitizing the sanctuary, restroom, high-touch surfaces, doorknobs and handles prior to worship.
- Limit building access and assembly to include sanctuary only where safe social distancing can be practiced.
- Limit use of restrooms to main floor only.
- Requiring masks to be worn by all adults and strongly requesting that children currently enrolled in grades K-12 wear masks as well.
- Masks will be available in the breezeway for those who do not have one.
- Practicing vigilant hygiene through frequent handwashing and ample access to hand sanitizer in worship, restroom, and public spaces.
- Posting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at prominent entry points and doorways throughout the building.
- Strongly encouraging our most vulnerable members to worship from home.

In order to meet the safety precautions outlined above, the following changes will be made within each of our ministry areas:

- **WORSHIP**
 - In person services will be held at 10:45 am only.

- Either emails will be sent out to the congregation ahead of each service to gather an estimate of attendees, or in person attendees will be invited to worship based on their Care Group. Consideration will be given for in person visitors.
- We will re-arrange chairs to make social distancing feel intuitive and inviting, allowing persons who live in the same household to sit together.
- We will continue to livestream worship services via YouTube, so that those who wish to continue practicing stringent social distancing are able to worship with us.
- The only time individuals will not be masked in the sanctuary is when they are singing, speaking, or preaching.
- Our musical ensembles (e.g. choir and band) will not practice or perform at full capacity. Smaller ensembles (1-4 individuals) may present musical offerings while practicing social distancing.
- Children's Worship will not meet as a separate service offering. Disposable personal worship-in-a-bags will be available for children to use in their seats.
- Attendees are encouraged to bring their own communion elements.
- In passing of the peace, we encourage in person attendees to greet each other with a sign or motion that does not involve contact such as the peace sign, namaste, a hand over your heart or other sign language.
- The Peace Song and benediction will not involve holding hands.
- Offering will be collected in a box in the back of the sanctuary to minimize the contact required for passed trays.
- We will disinfect the sanctuary prior to service.
- We will continue to print abridged bulletin materials. The bulletin will also be available electronically for those who do not wish to use paper.
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP**
 - No other in person activities, including Adult Education, Child and Youth classes, youth groups or other small groups will be held in the building.
 - Adult Education will continue online offerings.
 - Children and Youth classes will not meet in person.
 - Creative outside and/or online opportunities will be made available for children to interact with each other.
 - Youth groups will continue to meet online.
 - We will continue to develop our digital and social media presence.
 - Youth and children will not attend mission trips or in person camps.
- **COMMUNITY**
 - People will be encouraged to practice social distancing while visiting in the parking lot.
 - No communal food or drink will be available before or after the service.
 - We will not have any large fellowship dinners or meals prepared in our kitchen or provided on our property.
 - Pastoral Partners will continue to check in on their Care Groups and pastors will also conduct pastoral care, but hospital visits will be suspended.

- No outside groups or building rentals. Weddings, funerals, and special services will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- CONNECT
 - We will invest more time and energy in making ourselves accessible and visible to online visitors who are looking to connect in more meaningful ways.
 - We will suspend giving away physical materials to newcomers, but we will encourage them to give us their information so we can be in contact and share with them about Saint Andrew.
- MISSIONS
 - Financial support of mission partners will continue to the best of our ability.
 - IHN continues in compliance with IHN safety and cleaning protocols.
 - CSA will continue to operate outside on the patio with masks.
- RESOURCES
 - Further investments will be made to install our livestreaming equipment as a fixture in the sanctuary that does not obstruct or hinder the in person worship experience for members.
 - Leadership teams will still be encouraged to conduct their meetings and business online.

PHASE 2 OF RETURNING TO THE SAINT ANDREW CAMPUS

Phase 2 may begin when we have seen 28 days of decline in COVID-19 cases in Johnson, Wyandotte and Jackson County—the three primary counties wherein our members reside. Upon reaching 28 days of decline in COVID cases, we can expand in person worship and small groups meet on a case-by-case basis with the following safety precautions:

Follow guidelines in Phase 1. Differences from Phase 1 to Phase 2:

- Communion prepared and offered at entrance.
- Small groups will be considered on a case-by-case basis and be responsible for sanitizing spaces after use.

PHASE 3 OF RETURNING TO THE SAINT ANDREW CAMPUS

Phase 3 may begin when we have seen 42 days of decline in COVID-19 cases in Johnson, Wyandotte and Jackson County—the three primary counties wherein our members reside. Upon reaching 42 days of decline in COVID cases, we can resume in person worship and fellowship meetings with the following safety precautions in place:

Follow guidelines in Phases 1 and 2. Differences from Phase 2 to Phase 3:

- Seating numbers increased in sanctuary. Friends Hall will be used as overflow seating.
- Possible performances from small vocal groups.
- Pre-packaged communion picked up at communion table.
- Masks recommended but not required.
- The passing of the peace will be explored.

- Printed materials will be provided again in the sanctuary.
- Small groups allowed to meet and be responsible for sanitizing spaces after use.
- Adult Ed on campus resumes, online options will be explored.
- Youth, Children and nursery events will be explored. Involvement in camps, mission trips, and overnight youth experiences will be explored.
- Socializing in Friends Hall resumed.
- Weddings, funerals, and special services consistent with the number we allow in worship will be permitted, but receptions following or prior will be on a case-by-case basis.
- Coffee service will resume.
- Masks be worn for activities that require closer interaction or involve food preparation.
- People will be encouraged social distancing (unless members of the same household) when eating at church.
- Monitoring the size of groups and scale of activities that take place within our building.
- Leadership teams determine to meet in person or continue online.

PHASE 4 OF RETURNING TO THE SAINT ANDREW CAMPUS

Phase 4 signals a return to worship and community life where there are no restrictions (other than the fire code) to the number of persons able to gather in our building for worship, fellowship, or community events. Phase 4 will include best practices that have been adopted and adapted along the way to ensure public health and safety, along with the cleanliness of the building.

Accordingly, the following changes from Phase 3 will be considered:

- We will resume two services as traditionally held.
- There will be no restrictions on seating and the seating arrangement will return to regular congregational seating.
- We will continue to livestream worship services via You Tube.
- Communion will continue.
- Worship will resume full vocal and instrumental music.
- A form of passing of the peace will resume.
- Collecting the offering with an offering basket will resume.
- Printed materials will be provided again in the sanctuary.
- The nursery will be available.
- Masks will be optional.

RETURNING TO VIRTUAL WORSHIP IN THE EVENT OF A CASE SURGE

If at any point during any of the four phases posted on our website, we experience a sustained rise in COVID cases, we will resume meeting to the appropriate level of caution in line with the tracking metrics. In such circumstance, we will communicate the changes through email and the website.