



Dear CPC Family,

You may have heard last week that on May 25th the California Department of Public Health published a guide for faith-based organizations entitled COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services. Further, an update from the Health Department came out this week on June 2nd with more stipulations. We are mandated to adhere to the County's public health shelter-in-place order as our local governing authority. Romans 13:1 is a great reminder of this biblical mandate: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established."

So, you may be asking **"Are we going to meet in-person again soon? What are the restrictions? And how will we adhere to them?"** Those are great questions!

**Here's the answer: we have been working on a plan for weeks. Yet given the significant restrictions and changing landscape, it's going to take more time. And it will include multiple phases as we move toward re-gathering on campus.** We believe the next phase, as restrictions begin to lift on size of gatherings, will be to gather in your homes with your small groups and your actual neighbors--perhaps sharing the fellowship of a meal and watching church online.

**The current restrictions for resuming on-campus worship services are significant:** the County's recent guide is 13-pages, outlining changes churches should make to their meeting spaces and offices to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when their campuses re-open. For instance, the current limit for faith-based gatherings is **no more than 100 people for services held outdoors, and no more than 12 people for services held indoors.** This includes staff, health screeners, ushers, and all those in support roles. **Further restrictions include checking temperatures of every attendee, everyone wearing masks, no touching, no kids programs, no food or beverages, and no singing...**just to name a few!

**Thus, please don't expect our doors to open immediately.** Re-opening will be far more complicated than when we closed our campus. For churches of our size and complexity there are a lot of details to work out. As we work toward re-gathering, we need to train extra health screeners, ushers and greeters in new protocols. We must consider how we can best encourage those in the vulnerable groups to stay at home and enjoy the livestream. We must ensure all of this training and reorganization is in place before we re-open our doors, to make CPC as safe as possible. **We do not want to be part of the problem of spreading Covid-19; we want to be part of the solution.**

I've been working in partnership with other large Bay Area churches over the last several weeks, and **the reopening dates projected for large churches under these new regulations ranged from Father's Day June 21 to mid-September, with most estimating that they would reopen in mid-August.** We all agree it will take time to do this right. Meanwhile, we are creatively brainstorming new ways to foster connection as we move toward re-gathering on campus for worship.

**I do not believe it is wise to rush the decision or process of re-opening the campus.** I want to assure you that we all share the same goal: to reopen our campus as soon as we can, in ways that are wise and loving. And we must continually keep in mind that what we do impacts not just our church, but the broader community, and even other churches. We will continue to be FOR our community...and the timing and manner in which we re-open our campus will be a testimony that we are indeed FOR the Valley.

In the meantime, we will continue to fulfill our vision to REACH people for Christ. **We're still gathering as a church--just in a different manner.** We miss one another, and we love one another. And we will gather again! But for now, thousands are joining for worship every weekend. **Church has never been closed, just our buildings.** We are rediscovering that what binds us together as a family is not our building but our shared faith in Jesus Christ. Please pray for wisdom, patience, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our decisions. We want to do what is best both for YOU, our beloved church, and the community we serve.

With you FOR the Valley,  
Tyler