

Recommendation to Session

From: 201 Washington Street Task Force (WSTF)
Date: August 26, 2021
Reg: Current protocol for in-person meeting
Members: “Stat Group” (immediate needs, smaller task force of public health advisors)
Melanie Bliss (chair)
Martha Crenshaw
Kathy Harben
David Hunter

Matthew 25:40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

The WSTF wishes to update Central Presbyterian Church’s Session with our current recommendations regarding in-person meeting. We recognize the ongoing strong need and desire for people to gather in-person. We are committing to following the science behind COVID-19 transmission and best practices for mitigating the chance of infection. The recommendations made below could change suddenly to become more restrictive (with less allowance for gathering) based on data regarding transmission rates and public health recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. We continue to strongly recommend that all persons eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine become fully vaccinated.
2. We continue to encourage outdoor gatherings when possible, as the likelihood of spread of the virus is far less.
3. We continue to affirm individual choices people make regarding attendance, and having Zoom meetings as an option allows people to make the choice best for their needs.
4. Any church-sponsored or church-affiliated in-person gatherings, whether at CPC, a member’s home, or another location should have the following components in place:
 - a. A register of all people who have attended so that contact tracing can occur if necessary. This might be through a sign-up-genius but should be updated by the host on paper as to who actually attended.
 - b. Required mask use when indoors.
 - c. Hand sanitizer readily available and used upon entering and before eating.
 - d. Social distancing to the extent possible. This may mean there are chairs or pews between people, multiple rooms used, etc.
 - e. People who do not feel well or register a fever should not attend.
 - f. Eating should be social-distanced as well as possible. Handwashing and hand sanitizer before and after serving of food are important practices.
 - g. Turning on fans, opening windows, and opening doors when possible may help with room ventilation.
 - h. Communal singing should be social-distanced (i.e. choir practice) with no communal singing in small spaces (e.g. at an in-home gathering).
 - i. A return to corporate singing in worship will utilize a tiered process. Initially, a small group of choir members will follow safety protocols while participating in

worship. After a reassessment of covid statistical data on or around October 1, a decision will be made about adding congregational singing to the service.