

COVID-19 Planning update regarding reintegration of the whole church

[Video Transcript] May 1st, 2020

Greetings church family, on behalf of the elders and preachers, we miss you and we love you.

This is quite a strange and difficult time. I don't think any of us saw this coming. I know many of us thought this virus would just be a small bump in the road, but it has quickly turned into a detour for the world, country, the state, and our church.

There are a few things we want to tell you. First, we're proud of you. You have done an amazing job being the church in this time.

We have seen and heard of countless stories of your faith and kindness towards each other. This is not only a help to those who receive it but it's also a source of strength and encouragement to the rest of us.

You have also done an amazing job continuing to give financially. We began this crisis in a good position financially and we continue to do so because of your faithfulness. We are able to continue in ministry, even in a new way, and able to continue to help those in need.

If you are in need right now, we are here to help. We are a family, just contact us.

We also want you to know that we are closely monitoring the guidelines from our state and local officials as well as the recommendations from healthcare professionals. It is our goal to proceed with safety, with faith, and with love for neighbor.

At this time, we wanted to share with you our plan for reintegration as a whole church body. These plans are based on what we currently know, and we'll adjust those as time progresses.

By now you may have heard of the Governor's proposal to reopen the state in phases. You can find a link to this proposal in the description below. We will use the beginning of these phases as benchmarks for our process as we safely reassemble.

To ensure that every member of our congregation is cared for, we are going to create care groups of approximately 20 people where we can share better connection, deeper fellowship, and do effective ministry.

During phase 1 the care groups will be introduced.

- We will continue practicing the shelter in place order and continue using the online content for spiritual nourishment.
- During this phase we'll ask the group members to check on each other, pray for each other, and tend to each other's needs as you are able.
- If needs arise that are bigger than the group can take care of, the group leader can contact the elders to explore ways for those needs to be taken care of.

During phase 2, when Ohioans are encouraged to meet in group sizes up to 50, we will then encourage care groups to meet in homes to worship together.

- The online content will still be available as a resource for your groups to use as you worship together.
- Groups should continue to minister to one another as they were in phase 1.

- If you're one of our members who falls into one of the most vulnerable categories, you can rest assured that this online content will still be available for you to use at home. We don't want you to feel pressure to come into group settings.
- If you reside with someone who is vulnerable to this virus we want to encourage you continue to take precautions as you gather with groups for worship.

During phase 3, when Ohioans are able to gather together with groups of less than 100, we will begin to open up our building for public worship.

- We plan to hold multiple services each Sunday to ensure group sizes can remain in accordance with public health recommendations.
- We will be taking precautions to reduce the exposure both before and during assemblies.

We'll be releasing a separate video where Matt will share more details about the groups and the plans we have for each phase. Your group leader will also be contacting you soon to get you connected.

As we navigate this uncharted territory, we ask you to be **invested**.

- Invested in your relationship with the Lord, invested in your church family, and invested in the ministry opportunities this situation brings you.
- If you have any questions, you can always contact us. We're here for you.

So, on behalf of all of us - Thank you, we're with you, we love you, and God bless you.