

POST-COVID RE-ENTRY PLAN

JUNE 2021

“Rethinking & Reshaping of the Vision”

To: The Congregation of Thalia UMC

From: your Post-covid Re-entry Group (PRG)

1. Yes, there is yet another committee formed from a mix of individuals who served on the Healthy Church Team (HCT) and other key individuals vital to the safety and efficiency of our church operations. This committee was formed through discussion between the Pastor, our Lay Leader and the HCT Chairperson. We are the PRG, formed at the request of our Bishop with the mandate to begin the practice of the proactive work of resourcing our church for ministry in the coming post-pandemic environment. The group will of course, continue the focus on assisting Thalia UMC to engage in safe practices as they conduct our much and eagerly awaited in-person worship and ministry.

“ALTHOUGH THE PANDEMIC LOOKS LIKE IT’S ENDING, THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR VIGILANCE.”

The following are guidelines for the safe return to our church home.

a. Considerations for mask exemption during indoor worship:

- ✓ Our Pastor shall be fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC
- ✓ The true percentage of our worshipping congregation is fully vaccinated
- ✓ Pertinent COVID related data and infection rates have been reviewed
- ✓ Risks to those who may be unvaccinated or remain at risk have been weighed
- ✓ Risks to children and youth who remain unvaccinated have been weighed
- ✓ Pastor Joe commits to speaking softly
- ✓ Time of preaching has been factored in
- ✓ Pastor Joe will maintain appropriate distance from audience
- ✓ Adequate ventilation has been assessed
- ✓ All who desire to attend unmasked will commit to having had the vaccine protocol
- ✓ All staff and volunteers who have a role that requires close (6 ft or less) interaction with members, shall have had the required vaccinations, or wear a mask during the period of interaction.
- ✓ There are no limits on numbers of people attending worship
- ✓ Fully vaccinated people may sing without a mask indoor and outdoors

b. What if we learn we have had a positive case? The congregation will be alerted by quickest and most efficient means. Those who may have come in close contact with someone testing positive (by attending the same worship service or event) are encouraged to seek and comply with medical guidance. Closing the church will likely not be required, but appropriate sanitation procedures will be followed.

2. This overall PRG Plan has been presented and approved by our Leadership Team.