

# **Phased Re-opening Plan Wabash Church of the Brethren COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Last Updated April 8, 2021*

## **PHASE ONE** *Current Phase*

### **Considerations before implementing:**

1. Two weeks of declining case counts
2. Widespread availability of testing and contact tracing
3. No personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages
4. Recommendations/executive orders from local, state, and/or federal government
5. Recommendations from South/Central Indiana District and the General Offices of the Church of the Brethren.

### **Recommendations:**

- Continue holding online worship services only. Continue live streaming from the sanctuary, with minimal persons present.
- Any person in the church should wear masks when in the building, and maintain social distancing of at least six feet.
- Pre-record music for worship services, and/or utilize online resources which have granted us permission to use.
- Weddings and funerals may take place but will require less than 10 in attendance. In general, this will mean immediate family only.
- Re-open the church office on a limited basis. While holding office hours, Pastor Doug and Michelle will not be having additional people in their offices.
- During this phase, the Executive Committee, and, as appropriate, the Church Board, will continue to meet via Zoom.
- High-risk individuals, whether staff or volunteers, should continue to shelter in place.

# PHASE TWO

*Beginning May 16, 2021*

## **Considerations before implementing:**

1. Widespread availability of vaccines: at minimum, six weeks of vaccine eligibility for all adults (allowing for a minimum of time for those receiving two-shot vaccinations to be fully vaccinated).
2. Recommendations from local, state and/or federal government allowing gatherings of up to 50 persons.
3. Recommendations from South/Central Indiana District and the General Offices of the Church of the Brethren.

## **Recommendations:**

- Begin holding in-person worship services, along with live-streaming for those who choose to remain home during this time.
- As singing is one of the higher-risk behaviors for spreading the virus, congregational singing will not be implemented during this phase. Instrumental music will be utilized, along with the possibility of adding in singing by song leaders who are fully vaccinated.
- Encourage those attending to practice social distancing. This can include having people spread out in the sanctuary space with one family unit per pew; and keeping at least one empty pew between families.
- No communion services will be held, either in pew or Love Feast. Any online options that are made available will be communicated to the congregation.
- Continue to require face coverings while in building. If outdoors, facemasks will be encouraged but not required.
- Implement no-contact policies for handing out bulletins, and encouraging persons attending to continue to practice social distancing.
- No Children's Church will be held.
- Continue to avoid indoor fellowship events. Consider outdoor events where social distancing maintained. Encouraging those attending to exit the building after the service ends instead of mingling. Encourage those wishing to visit to do so outdoors.
- As needed, capacity restrictions will be considered.
- Weddings and funerals may return to more normal practice, as long as the guest list remains under 50 persons.
- Sunday School will continue to meet via Zoom. Bible Study may begin again, held outdoors as weather permits, but otherwise respecting masking indoors and social distancing.
- Allow usage of building on a case by case basis, while requiring groups to follow masking and social distancing protocols.
- Re-open indoor food pantry once per week, as volunteers are available.
- Pastor Doug and Michelle will return to normal office functions.
- The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may continue to meet via Zoom or in person. The Church board, as well as the various board committees, may decide to meet via Zoom or in person. If they decide to meet in person, social distancing of six feet or more will be observed, and face masks shall be worn.
- Post signs indicating symptoms and urging people to stay home or seek medical attention if they have symptoms. Those who are sick from other illnesses should also stay home.

- Maintain good stocks of tissue, soap, hand sanitizer, and disposable paper towels for drying hands.
- Clean the building regularly, including spending extra attention to high-touch surfaces.
- If leadership becomes aware of a person or persons who have been in the church building infected with COVID-19, the congregation will be informed without providing name(s). Congregational leadership, including Pastor Doug and the board chair, will cooperate fully with contact tracers.
- High-risk individuals, whether staff, volunteers, or program participants, should continue to shelter in place, unless fully vaccinated.

# PHASE THREE

*Tentatively beginning June 6, 2021*

## **Considerations before implementing:**

1. Vaccination rates of 50-70% (based on county information if available, otherwise on state levels). Cases rates of 5-10/100,000, and new case rates of less than 10% in Wabash County. These should be consistent for approximately one month before entering into phase 3.
2. Continued guidance from local, state, and/or federal governments.
3. Continued guidance from South/Central Indiana District and the General Offices of the Church of the Brethren.

## **Recommendations:**

- High-risk individuals, whether staff, volunteers, or program participants, should continue to shelter in place during Phase Three unless fully vaccinated.
- Continue holding in-person worship services, along with live-streaming for those who choose to remain home during this time.
- Encourage face mask usage in the building.
- Continue to offer both in-person and live-streaming of worship services.
- Communion may be performed in the sanctuary, but Love Feast may continue to be postponed.
- Continue to encourage social distancing within the building, visiting with others in the congregation permitted in the building following services.
- Begin congregational singing,
- Continue allowing outside groups to use building while continuing to encourage masking and social distancing.
- Children's church may be held as circumstances allow.
- Continue no-contact bulletin distribution and offering collection.
- Continue consideration of fellowship activities, with a focus on outdoor activities.
- Funerals and weddings may proceed without size restrictions.
- Sunday School will resume in person. Bible Study will resume indoors.
- Pastor Doug and Michelle will continue to maintain normal office functions.
- The Executive Committee and Church Board will meet in person instead of online via Zoom. Face masking and social distancing will be encouraged. The Board will meet in the Fellowship Hall instead of the Board Room. The Executive Committee will meet in a location that allows for social distancing.

# PHASE FOUR

*No tentative date at this time*

## **Considerations before implementing:**

1. Vaccine rates 70-85%. Cases <1/100,000, positive test rates <5%. These should be consistent for at least one month prior to moving into this phase.

## **Recommendations:**

- High-risk individuals may cease stay-at-home practices.
- Continue holding in-person worship services. Continue live-streaming for those unable to attend in person.
- Return to passing the offering plates and bulletins as usual
- Love Feast will be held
- Children's Church will be re-implemented, if not already begun
- Remove recommendations around the usage of face masks
- Remove signs of symptoms/urging persons to seek medical attention from building
- Return to normal cleaning procedures