



June 5, 2020

As many of you know, the Executive Archdeacon and I joined in a conversation with Dr Hanley, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer, and faith-based leaders. During that event, we heard the wonderful news that we can now move to the next phase. Provided we follow the guidelines, we can return to in-person services. Bishop's Council has agreed that the date for **return to services will be June 21st** which is National Aboriginal Day and Father's Day.

There is work to do before the start-up day. All parish leaders have received the Faith-Based Services and Activities Guideline document. They have also received the link to an operational plan document that must be completed for Workers Compensation Health and Safety. This document does not need to be sent in but must be on hand if a member of WCHSB attends the space and requests the document. Although this is not a BC requirement, I ask that our BC parishes complete the document so that we are all operating within the same requirements.

The following restrictions must be observed:

1. **No more than 50 people (including worship leaders) or 1/3 of capacity whichever is less.** If two spaces are available (sanctuary and hall) both can be utilized following those guidelines.
2. **A physical distance of 2 meters** (6 feet) must be maintained between individuals who are not from the same household.
3. **No passing of the offering plate.** Consider placing the offering plate in a convenient location and let people drop their offering into the plate.
4. **Communion in one kind only (bread).** The table will be set with a tiny amount of wine in the chalice, but only the celebrant will consume the wine. Only the celebrant will handle and distribute the bread at all times.
5. **Congregational singing is not recommended.** Droplets are spread much farther with singing than talking. While not prohibited, it is recommended that we consider not singing or having a solo or increasing the space between members.
6. **No shaking hands or hugging or touching** during the sharing of the Peace. Remember physical distancing must still be observed.
7. **Washroom use** Limit washroom use. Must be at least sanitized between uses.

8. Do not share microphones

9. Fellowship time. If having coffee time only one person will pour coffee and provide creamer and sugar. No plates of food. Maintain physical distance.

10. Cleaning & Sanitizing. All areas must be cleaned and sanitized after use.

Hand sanitizer should be available throughout the space. All printed material left behind should be disposed of immediately following the service.

It is important to remember steps for prevention and staying safe.

- a. Physical distancing
- b. Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water or use hand sanitizer
- c. Stay home if you are feeling sick
- d. Don't gather in large groups
- e. Limit travel
- f. Self isolate if you have just returned to the territory (includes BC parishes)

I realize that not everyone is excited about the idea of going back and that some are fearful. I also know that quite a large number of people have been participating in online services. With that in mind, we have decided to record a morning prayer service and that service will be available on the diocesan website on Sunday mornings.

I give thanks for each of you who have kept in touch with each other and I ask you to continue doing so. I give thanks for all who have participated in online worship. I give thanks for the clergy and lay leaders who have, and will continue to, participated in online meetings and updates and bible studies and virtual coffee time.

I encourage you to support your parish in its start up process and endeavours.

Blessings;

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lesley" with a small cross symbol above the first letter.