

## VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH – June, 2020

\*\*\* **REOPENING Plan!!!** \*\*\*

**FIRST:** Commit to following these simple CDC recommendations *faithfully*:

- Remain at home if sick; or, if you have been recently exposed or possibly exposed to Covid-19.
- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly, even more frequently.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and face.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with inner elbow, or tissue (throw tissue away).
- Limit close contact with people for prolonged periods.
- Save handshakes and hugs for another day.

1) What questions and concerns do the people of the church have?

- Nearly all regular attenders have been personally contacted about their thoughts on reopening, in particular 2 questions were asked: a) would they come if the church was reopened in the next week or so, and secondly b) what would be their foremost concerns for reopening?

Answers: a) Only one said they would not come yet. 2) Nearly universally this one concern was mentioned: adequate “social distancing.”

- Beside the two general responses above, one also was concerned about “social distancing” when they are picked up by car and brought to the church. This was discussed and addressed to the person’s satisfaction: someone with a larger SUV, having larger interior space, volunteered to pick them up.
- Two suggested that everyone wear a face mask. One asked about the positioning of chairs and expressed concern over the use of fabric chairs.
- One also expressed concern at offending other members by their less restrictive views on Covid-19.

2) What cleaning processes are we going to implement?

- Any hard surfaces used will be cleaned, including door knobs and door handles, sound equipment and computer keyboards, and the pulpit microphone. Several aspects of the service will be scaled back to minimize surface areas needing to be cleaned. Recommended sanitizing solution will be used to spray on, let briefly set, then wipe dry.
- The Tiempo Nuevo will continue to do their standard practice of cleaning the overall church interior. This, however, will be completed by Friday night. Then on Saturday, several volunteers from VVBC will sanitize the church as indicated above for the Sunday morning service (volunteers include: Dave Sebald, Linda Broeker, Pastor Ron and Vicki). These will also

sanitize required areas after the service as well. Tiempo Nuevo will then take use of the church at 12:00 noon.

- Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available at several locations: a) in the church foyer upon entering or exiting, b) inside the church sanctuary (likely on the table at the middle entrance), and c) one in each of the restrooms.

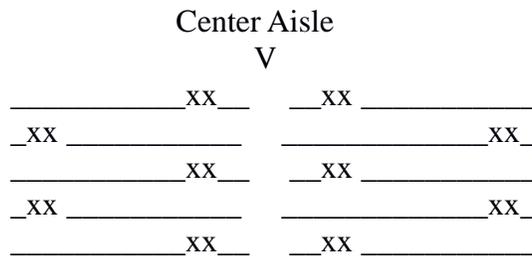
3) How are greeters going to welcome people?

- Cheerfully. Most likely Pastor Ron or Lee will be the initial greeters. The entrance doors will be propped open (weather permitting) to avoid contact with handles or door knobs. Greeters will refrain from hand shakes or physical contact.
- Additionally, social distancing protocols will be followed by both greeters and by those coming to attend. The cement apron (sidewalk) outside the front doors of the church will be marked (likely with colored Duck Tape) to indicate appropriate spacing for those coming to the service.
- Recommend and supply masks to anyone who would like one.

4) How are we going to ensure services are not too full and safe distancing guidelines are adhered to?

- The church family will be notified in advance of safety precautions being put in place.
- The size of our congregation in comparison with the size of our auditorium makes this very doable. Additionally during the service, members will be reminded to be sensitive toward others and to utilize good social distancing practices.
- Markings outside the front doors of the church (as indicated in #3 above) will alert those coming to the service of the importance of safe practices and especially of “social distancing.” Then reminders during the service and the segregated seating arrangement will reinforce the message. Finally, at the end of the service, dismissal will be by rows, beginning is the back. Once outside of the church, people will be permitted to socialize as they feel comfortable in doing so.

Seating will be limited to every *other* row and with seating at each end; that is, staggered at the ends of a row as illustrated below:



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PULPIT

**5) How are we going to continue to minister to those who are not ready to meet in person?**

- For a time we will try to provide both an in-person Sunday service and an online one as well.
- The online service may be a combination of prerecorded and live streaming. (the in-person service may be a combination as well)

**6) How are you going to administer the Lord's Supper?**

- Much will remain the same as in previous observances of the Lord's Supper; however, the one dispensing the elements will wear gloves and mask, as well as, the ones preparing the elements.
- Since there will be a number of weeks before the first observance, some other changes may yet be made, noting that this current plan does not meet "social distancing" for server and worshiper.

**7) How are we going to handle the offerings?**

- No change here. The current method will continue with an offering plate located at the back of the auditorium.
- Those who handle the offerings for counting and deposit will be encouraged to wear gloves or wash their hands with soap and water immediately afterward.

**8) What are we going to do about coffee, snacks, and socializing after services?**

- Nothing immediately, since this has not been a regular practice before this.
- However, at some later time it could be set up and added outdoors after the service.

**9) What new policies and procedures will we have for children's ministry?**

- No nursery or children's church will be offered at this time.
- For visitors with children, they will worship together in the sanctuary.
- Additionally, visiting parents will need to control "social distancing" standards for their children, both before and after the service.

**10) What are we going to do about every other ministry – music, youth, men,**

women, seniors, Bible studies, special events?

- Church music will be prerecorded or on CDs, utilizing the church's sound system. Whenever possible prelude and special music will be shown on screen from the computer.
- At present, there will be no congregational singing for the first few weeks as recommended by the state for indoor services.
- Beside the music ministry, the only other ministry we have is Thursday night Prayer and Bible Study. After the first in-person Sunday service, we will resume our Thursday night in-person Prayer and Bible study once again.
- Prior to the Thursday night study and after it, tables and chairs will be wiped down and sanitized. For the study, tables will be spread apart for recommended social distancing.
- Initially, Thursday night treats will be put on hold.

**11) What are we going to do about volunteers who may not be ready to come back yet?**

- Appoint substitutes from members or regular attendees.

**12) What things worked well while we weren't meeting in-person that we want to continue moving forward?**

- Prerecorded services online.

**13) Are we going to reopen in phases? If so, what will each phase look like? When will each phase start?**

- A phased-in approach may not be necessary. As additional latitude is given to reopen, an ongoing assessment can be made whether to progress more or not, and how to progress safely. Certainly, the goal is to restore the ministry to a full pre-coronavirus state.

**14) How are we going to communicate this reopening plan?**

- Primarily via email and website. Then also mail and phone calls as needed.
- Post the plan in the church as required.
- Recommend that "higher risk" category persons remain at home longer.

**15) How can people communicate their questions, concerns and issues before**

and during the reopen?

- Ask for feedback after each of the first several services.
- Questions and comments can be communicated through email, website, mail or telephone.