

# Welcome!

## **UMCG Building Re-Opening Town Hall**

# Agenda

- Health Team
- Re-Opening Plan
- What Has Been Accomplished
- The Path Forward
- Questions & Answers

Please hold your questions to the Q&A Session at the end

Questions can be sent to David Dias in a private chat during the presentation

# Health Team

- Co-Chairs: David Dias & Jim Alderfer
- Members:
  - Pastor Rich Darr, Worship & Ministries
  - Gale Dias, Health Considerations
  - Keith Eakins, Staff Parish
  - Jules Heinemann, Communications
  - Greg Lower, Trustees
  - Becky Nicol, Staff & Communications
  - Debbie Sampiller, Staff
  - Scott Stevenson, Consulting Worship & Ministries
  - Pastor Lisa Telomen , Worship & Ministries

# Health Team Mission

The mission of the UMCG Health Team is to guide the church through the process of reopening our church building to the staff, clergy, congregation and public safely. **The health and safety of everyone entering the building is our only priority and will guide our actions.**

The Health Team will utilize all available information, guidelines, recommendations and best practices from the local, state, federal and church organizations to create a reopening plan for our church. The plan will include what will be reopened (church services, small groups, church office, etc.), when it will be reopened (during what phase of the “NIC ReTurn Team Plan” and “Restore Illinois” plan) and how to reopen including any required new operating processes, procedures, protocols and rules required to keep everyone healthy and safe.

The Health Team will communicate to everyone on a regular basis as this plan unfolds.

The primary emphasis of the UMC ReTurn Plan is ‘Do No Harm!’

# Re-Opening Plan

## Input to the Plan

- Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) ReTurn Plan
- Restore Illinois Plan
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The NIC ReTurn Plan follows the phases of the Restore Illinois Plan and adds detailed information and steps for each phase for the individual church plans to use as they build their plans

## Key Takeaways from the NIC information:

- Churches are different than other public venues
- Significant changes to our routines will be required
- Many changes to worship services, we will not get what we want right away
- There are no shortcuts to the guidelines, they must be followed to maximize the safe return to worship and other church activities in order to 'Do No Harm!'

# Re-Opening Plan

Each phase in the NIC ReTurn Plan has absolute guidelines that spell out the actions required during that particular phase of the ReTurn Plan.

We have used these absolute guidelines as a checklist for each phase to insure we are ready to enter that phase and plan ahead for future phases.

The full NIC ReTurn Plan can be found at:

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/resources/ReTurn%20Team%20Plan%202020%20June%2015%20FINAL.pdf>



United Methodist Church  
of Geneva

## PHASE 1

*Strict stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines in place and only essential business remain open.*

### CONSIDERATIONS

#### Psychological impacts

[Helping your congregation cope](#)

#### Building preparations

Is the church building/property secure? What are custodial arrangements for cleaning? Have cleaning supplies, PPE, hand sanitizer been ordered for reopening? Are signs posted around the building? Have voicemail, websites, and social media been updated?

#### Worship

Offered online? Prerecorded or live? Who needs help with access? Is there an online giving platform in place? Is the church communicating with regular givers?

#### Vulnerable populations

Can the church help people use new technologies? Does the online service video have subtitles or closed captioning? Can the church email a

## ABSOLUTE GUIDELINES

- Form a Health Team or designate a group authorized to monitor ongoing situations and develop, implement, and monitor guidelines
- Inspect building weekly
- No groups in the building
- Entry to building limited to essential personnel; record and track access
- Post information about how to reach the pastor and church office, and how people can worship virtually
- Weekly worship is cancelled or moved online
- Provide options for congregation to keep giving and communicate them clearly
- Be in regular communications with vulnerable congregants
- Make accommodations for online worship with closed captions and published transcripts
- No in-person meetings, youth or children's ministries, mission trips or VBS
- Staff work from home and meet virtually
- No in-person pastoral visits
- No gatherings, events, space rentals, weddings, or in-person group meetings

# What Has Been Accomplished

The Health Team began meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> and meets every Monday evening. We have spent a considerable amount of time considering the multiple details and questions involved in reopening. Some highlights of the actions taken are:

- Reset of the building key code access system and new assignment of individual key codes to limit and track entry to the building
- Reached out to the congregation with the Check-In Survey (178 responses received)
- Creation and assignment of actions required to move through each phase of the ReTurn Plan through phase 4
- Creation of a building entry protocol for anyone entering the building
- Plans for the necessary cleaning & sanitizing of the building after each use
- Space planning for each area to determine capacity to ensure proper social distancing
- Inventory and ordering of necessary Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- At this time we have completed most of the absolute guideline items through phase 4 of the NIC ReTurn Plan

# The Path Forward

- What will be needed to resume in-person worship services in the sanctuary
  - We will need a reservation system to insure we don't exceed the maximum attendees
  - Entry to the building through one set of doors, use one stairway and one set of washrooms
  - Elevator will be available for those who need it
  - Social distancing required at all times in the building
  - No coffee/social time before or after the service
  - What will worship look like in the near future:
    - Max 50 people
    - Masks are required at all times in the building
    - No shared food or drink
    - No nursery
    - No bulletins, hymnals or Bibles
    - No passing of the offering plate
    - No passing of the peace
    - Live music is limited to piano and organ; no wind instruments or singing (choir or congregation)
    - No responsive calls to worship
    - No responsive readings (eg., litanies of any sort)
    - No readings in unison of any sort (e.g., scripture, etc)
    - No offering of the Lord's Prayer in unison
    - Service will be short, no more than 35 minutes



# The Path Forward

- Weddings and Funerals can be held in the sanctuary using the worship restrictions on the previous slide
- Update from latest Worship Planning Team meeting:
  - We plan to continue providing excellent, online video-taped worship experiences in the future and beyond Covid-19
  - Live streaming of worship depends on new equipment and technologies. The Worship Planning Team is investigating this and will provide Church Council with input on what we feel is needed and costs
  - Outdoor worship is under consideration, the main hurdle is permitting from the City of Geneva or Kane County depending on the location. Masks and social distancing would still be required.
  - What are other Methodist churches in the TriCities planning (Pastor Rich)
- Next Steps
  - Finalize in-person worship service format and determine when is appropriate to start services and communicate to congregation
  - Place signage for entry protocol and building/room usage in key areas of building
  - Provide a copy of re-opening plan to the Aurora District Superintendent
  - Put the cleaning/sanitizing protocols in place
- Church meetings should continue to be done through video conferencing
- Use of the building for other events must be submitted for review to the church office (office@genevaumc.org)

# Question & Answer (Hopefully😊)

If you have a question please use the Raise Hand button