



Policy for restarting In-house worship at Rock Elm and Elmwood UMCs

Draft 6/10/2020

Preamble

1. United Methodists root their faith in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and in the Great Commandment, to love God and to love one another.
2. We express our faith as connectional church. This means that we understand that our actions affect others; that we are all in this together and that each should contribute and receive according to their gifts and their needs.
3. United Methodists are practical people with a deep interest in health from our earliest days. Our mission in the world is to minister to the least of them. When we return we do this for the most vulnerable.
4. United Methodist Churches of the Wisconsin Annual Conference commit to do no harm to the best of our ability as we serve God and humanity.
5. We follow public health guidelines. We are all participants in a public health effort.

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1. Hand sanitizer placed throughout the church at locations near items commonly touched.
2. Masks (covering of the nose and mouth) are required unless there is a medical reason preventing them wearing one. Masks will be made available for anyone who does not have one.
3. Disinfectant spray or wipes will be made available for all restrooms with posted instructions on how to use them.
4. Ushers to open doors for people and remind them of social distancing while in the church. Only front doors will be open for entry and exit.
5. An area designated for someone who suddenly falls ill separate from where people are gathered.
6. Be aware that some people are at higher risk in group settings. For example, people over 65, people living in nursing home or long term care facilities, people with underlying medical conditions, including chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised individuals, severe obesity, people with diabetes, chronic kidney disease who are undergoing dialysis, and liver disease.
7. Drinking fountain will be closed for the duration of the pandemic.

Worship in person guidelines

1. Pews in the sanctuary will be marked with tape designated where seating is permitted. This is to maintain safe social distancing during worship.
2. Ushers, wearing masks, will guide people to their seats. Only people living together will be permitted in any one pew. Single people not living together may sit at opposite ends of the pew.
3. The first to arrive are seated in the front and working toward the back.
4. There will be no passing of the peace or shaking hands.
5. Offerings can be placed in a basket at the entrance of the church. People are encouraged to take advantage of electronic giving.
6. Bulletins will not be used. Rather, the bulletin elements will be posted on the screen.
7. There will be no passing of clipboards or sign-up sheets. If sign-ups are needed then other ways will need to be established.
8. Communion will either be temporarily suspended, or an alternate form will be provided, i.e., prepackaged pre-sealed cups.
9. When the service is over people shall be dismissed back to front at 6 ft. intervals.

10. Physical distancing should be maintained as much as practical at all times on church property during the season of active Corona virus in Wisconsin.
11. Fellowship time is suspended.
12. There will be no congregational singing for the present. This will be re-evaluated as the situation changes. Music will be played during the service.
13. Children will remain in their seats for Kids Time.
14. Bibles, hymnals and other items will be removed from the pews.

Cleaning

Church cleaning will be done as per normal. Disinfecting the church is not necessary if the church is not used between Sundays. If the church is to be used between services, then more stringent cleaning must be done.