

## **“ALL SHALL BE WELL”**

*An enactment of God’s love,  
through caring love of neighbor and love of self,  
for gathered activities of Bethel College Mennonite Church  
during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*BCMC Purpose Statement: Our faith in a God of love leads us, by the power of the Spirit, to follow Jesus in doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.*

### **LARGE GROUP GATHERING FOR INDOOR WORSHIP (more than 20 people)**

In God’s love, through caring love of neighbor and self, we will

- Continue virtual gathering for worship for all who benefit;
- Gather in-person for worship when case data shows:
  - Harvey County two-week positivity rate is 3 - 5% or less (This positivity rate is recommended by W.H.O., we are using it for large group indoor worship because the larger group size increases the exposure risk)
  - All six Harvey County criteria are in green status
- Ask God’s blessing on all who gather;
- Ask God’s blessing on all who stay home,
  - Whether sick or unwell,
  - With health conditions (heart/lung, diabetes, respiratory, immune-compromised)
  - With risk from aging (65+),
  - With family/household/caregiver responsibilities,
  - For health and for comfort,
  - While awaiting a vaccine.

We will NOT meet for indoor worship if someone who attended worship tests positive within 48 hours of attending worship, or if 2 or more church staff test positive.

## **BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH COMMITMENTS FOR LARGE GROUP INDOOR WORSHIP**

As loving shepherds of its flock, BCMC will:

- Provide hand sanitizer at each entrance/exit
- Provide disposable masks if needed
- Provide vocal and instrumental music for worship
- Remove friendship pads and offering plates
- Run fans and open windows to reduce viral concentration
- Limit sanctuary seating for physical distancing
- Shorten worship service length to 30 – 45 minutes
- Keep nursery closed - children stay with family during worship service (including Children’s Conversation), may exit to Gathering Place during service if needed
- Cover drinking fountains to keep from use
- Encourage restroom use at home to minimize coming together with others in enclosed spaces; restrooms will be open for emergencies
- Prepare ushers on modified roles
- Actively listen and create new ways to shepherd the flock

### **PARTICIPANT COMMITMENTS**

In God’s love, through caring love of neighbor and self, we will:

- Stay home when unwell and/or when in doubt, or with health or aging risk conditions
- *(As applicable)* Abide by any retirement facility guidelines
- Wear masks on church grounds
- Keep 6 ft of space between households – indoors and out
- Keep coats/hats/gloves/scarves together with us
- Greet & pass the peace in touch-free ways, six feet apart
- Refrain from congregational singing
- Refrain from gathering in Gathering Place - no coffee/mail
- Prioritize south entrance for accessibility/proximity needs
- Prioritize front (west) entrance for those able to walk farther
- Exit the building the same way we entered
- Visit outside, wearing masks, 6 ft apart
- Notify church office if test positive within 48 hours of attending worship

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### **SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS (up to 20 people) FOR FAITH FORMATION, COMMISSION/COMMITTEE/TASK GROUP MEETINGS, AND SHARING ACTIVITIES**

In God’s love, through caring love of neighbor and self, we will

- Continue Zoom and on-line options for all near & far;
- Gather outdoors when possible, weather-permitting;
- Gather indoors and in-person for faith formation & small group activities when case data shows:
  - Harvey County two-week positive case rate is 9% or less (aligns with USD #373 yellow and green modes)
  - The two-week positive case trend is stable/decreasing;
- Ask God’s blessing on all who gather;
- Ask God’s blessing on all who stay home,
  - Whether sick or unwell,
  - With health conditions,
  - With risk from aging (65+),
  - With family/household/caregiver responsibilities,
  - For health and for comfort,
  - While awaiting a vaccine.

If a small group attendee tests positive within 48 hours of attending a small group BCMC event, that group will NOT meet again for a minimum of two weeks (14 days).

## **BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH COMMITMENTS FOR INDOOR FAITH FORMATION & SMALL GROUPS**

As loving shepherds of its flock, BCMC will:

- Provide hand sanitizer at each entrance/exit
- Provide disposable masks if needed
- Run fans and open windows to reduce viral concentration;
- Limit small group activities to 10 participants in Gathering Place and 20 participants in sanctuary
- *Add Fellowship Hall when renovation is complete*
- Limit time length of indoor group activities to under 2 hours - *the shorter the time, the less exposure risk*
- Encourage restroom use at home to minimize coming together with others in enclosed spaces; restrooms will be open for emergencies
- Group Leader/Facilitator will keep track of attendance at event in case contact tracing is necessary
- Actively listen and create new ways to shepherd the flock

### **PARTICIPANT COMMITMENTS FOR INDOOR FAITH FORMATION AND OTHER SMALL GROUP EVENTS**

In God’s love, through caring love of neighbor and self, we will:

- Stay home when unwell and/or when in doubt
- *(As applicable)* Abide by any retirement facility guidelines
- Wear masks on church grounds
- Keep 6 ft of space between households – indoors and out
- Keep coats/hats/gloves/scarves together with us
- Greet in touch-free ways, six feet apart
- Prioritize south entrance for accessibility/ proximity needs
- Prioritize front (west) entrance for those able to walk farther
- Exit the building the same way we entered, and visit outside
- Notify church office if test positive within 48 hours of attending a small group event

***“All shall be well, and all shall be well,  
and every manner of thing shall be well.”***

*Julian of Norwich, 1342 – 1416, mystic/theologian and survivor of the bubonic plague, the deadliest pandemic in human history*

## Helpful Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Disease COVID-19, Considerations for Communities of Faith.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Disease COVID-19, Deciding to go out.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Disease COVID-19, People at Increased Risk, Older People, People with Certain Medical Conditions, Other People who Need Extra Precautions.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>,

COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool. Shows how increased group size increases exposure risk.

<https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu/>

Harvey County, Statistics on COVID-19, Coronavirus Dashboard, Two-Week Percent Positivity Rate, Bi-Weekly Positive COVID Cases, Harvey County Gating Criteria.

<https://www.harveycounty.com/covid19stats>

Johns Hopkins University of Medicine, WHO Goal of 5% or less Positivity Rates for 14 days before Reopening.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/testing-positivity>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Frequently Asked Questions for Administrators and Leaders at Community and Faith Based Organizations.

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1256/FAQs-for-Administrators-and-Leaders-at-Community-and-Faith-Based-Organizations-PDF?bidId=>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Guidance for Churches and Faith-Based Organizations.

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/240/Churches-Faith-based-Organizations>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith.

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1254/Interim-Guidance-for-Communities-of-Faith-PDF?bidId>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Schools Gating Criteria.

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1425/Kansas-Schools-Gating-Criteria-PDF->

Kansas State Department of Education, Navigating Change, Schools Gating Criteria.

<https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Communications/Navigating%20Change/Gating%20Criteria%20Graphic.pdf?ver=2020-08-13-123107-083>

McColman, Carl. Advice for Surviving a Pandemic from Julian of Norwich.

<https://carlmccolman.com/advice-for-surviving-a-pandemic-from-julian-of-norwich/>

Newton USD #373 Return to Learn 20-21 Gating Criteria.

<https://usd373-ks.schoolloop.com/covid-19>

World Health Organization, Coronavirus, small public gatherings and covid-19. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-small-public-gatherings-and-covid-19>

World Health Organization, Coronavirus, percent positivity and community transmission.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1314216/retrieve>

**Consultant** - Jennifer Scott Koontz, M.D.

Approved 12-15-20 Reopen Church Task Group

*SUBJECT TO ONGOING REVIEW/REVISION AS NEEDED*