



## Resuming Physical Gatherings at C3

May 14, 2020 Version 1.0

After time in prayer, data analysis, consultation with medical professionals and other local leaders, and after receiving feedback from our church, we are excited to release our plan for slowly re-opening our doors for corporate worship. We will be opening our worship service to a small number of people **as early as May 24th**. This small group will gather for worship, walking through our guidelines, practices, and strategies for mitigating risk while assembling. After reflection and analysis, if it seems prudent we will increase the number of attendees each week, and possibly increase our number of services in order to accommodate as many as we safely can. Although May 24th is our target date, we will be closely monitoring the spread of the disease in Texas, DFW, and Denton and **we will not hesitate to postpone service and reconsider our plan if necessary.**

### CONSIDER THIS

---

First of all, we believe that gathering together as a body is a biblical, essential part of being a Christian that we can't simply "opt out" of. While technology has made not gathering less painful, we have all missed the benefits of one another's presence. We are made for more than "virtual" community. The church is more than a livestream. We are the body of Christ, and we don't want to linger in a "disembodied" state. We long to be back together in our parishes, in our LTGs, in our living rooms, around our dinner tables, and finally, into our new home at 102 Maple. **We want you to hear our desire to obey God's word and get back to gathering. But we aren't going to be hasty,** we're going to be wise and we're going to be cautious.

And when we do start gathering again, we will continue to have a spectrum of feelings and perspectives in our church. We'll have people who are very apprehensive, and people who are not apprehensive at all. The survey that many of you filled out showed that **we've got big numbers of people who are ready to responsibly gather and big numbers of people who just aren't there yet.** And right now, our city, our state, and our nation are all very polarized. This has been politicized and bullets are flying. Let us not take part in that. Let us walk in love and grace toward each other. Let us love our neighbor. We will not, as it says in Romans 14, pass judgment, or despise each other, but we will walk in love.

We are encouraging all those that are 65 and older, and those who have compromised immune systems or increased health risks, to wait through the first phases and join us later on. That will likely be painful for you. And it will be painful for us because we love you and we miss you and we need you. **We will continue our live streaming** and other ways of equipping you and blessing you if you can't gather, or if you aren't ready to gather just yet

## HOW IT WORKS

---

Although our sanctuary can comfortably seat around 300 people, we have determined that **our maximum capacity for a single service where social distancing guidelines are strictly enforced is around 125 people**. Our plans involve a slow and gradual build towards a public corporate gathering of no more than that number. After reflection and analysis of the service, and if COVID-19 data in our area is favorable, we will increase the number of attendees each week until we reach our social distanced seating capacity.

Starting as soon as May 24th, **we will open a signup for up to 50 people** to attend service. Covenant partners will have access to the signup for one day, then it will be opened up to anyone wanting to attend. We will be using our email list and facebook to distribute the signup. Once maximum capacity is reached, or if our signups are filled very quickly, we will consider adding additional services to accomodate more people wisely.

## DURING SERVICE

---

Things are going to be different for a while, it's not going to be how it used to be, and we need to be ready for that. It might feel unnatural, even awkward. But let's embrace it. **We will be mandating strict social distancing from entrance to exit**. Each family will have their own individualized row or section of chairs with an exit point that does not require contact with others. Every individual or family will enter in one at a time to the building, and will be immediately led by an usher to their designated seats. Bathrooms will only be available for one individual at a time. Masks and gloves will be worn by all ushers, and masks will be required for congregants. Communion will be pre-prepared and individuals or families will come to gather their elements one at a time. You can find more details about our Sunday service **guidelines in our Gathering Again document**.

## WHAT ABOUT MY KIDS?

---

We care deeply that your family is able to worship Jesus together in a meaningful way, as free from distraction as possible. However, during this time we are unable to provide C3Kids ministry and all **kids will be required to remain with their parents** at all times. Children are a blessing, not a burden, but we know babies make lots of noise and older kids can have trouble sitting still during a worship service. So don't feel bad if your kiddos aren't perfectly quiet. Ask an usher for some resources like kids notes that may help older children stay engaged. Try as we may, meltdowns do happen. We get it! If you need a place to get away with your child or children at any point during the service, simply get up and **ask an usher to direct you to one of our private rooms**. These will be private areas where your children can feel their feelings, get their wiggles out, and make a little more noise. And you'll be able to continue listening to the service on your device via the livestream. If you need to get up just for a second to calm your child, but would like to stay in the sanctuary, there will be a designated place in the back where you can

stand and still listen and participate in the service. Keep in mind as we work to better serve our families, our plans for our kids may change as we further identify needs and creative solutions.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

---

### **Is this legal?**

Yes. Although currently state and local governments advise against any personal groups of more than 10 people, [this recommendation does not apply to places of worship](#), nor to spaces where social distancing can be appropriately maintained.

### **When should I stay home?**

Please consider staying home if you are over 65 or have pre-existing health conditions like: chronic lung disease or severe asthma; severe obesity (BMI of 40 or higher); diabetes; chronic kidney disease; serious heart conditions; or if you are immunocompromised (many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications). Please stay home if you have experienced any symptoms of respiratory illness in the last week, such a severe cough, fever, or trouble breathing. And please stay at home if you just aren't quite ready to gather or if you feel it is the best decision for your family right now. We will continue to have a spectrum of feelings and perspectives regarding gathering, and we will continue to walk in love and grace.

### **Will a livestream still be available?**

If you are healthy and able to attend our corporate worship, we would love for you to do so. However, if you are sick, part of a high-risk group, have other reasons for not attending, or simply aren't quite ready to gather, we will still be offering our livestream to help care for you and your family and provide you with Biblical teaching and a time of worship.

### **I'm newer to C3, can I connect to a group right now?**

Yes! All of our groups are in different stages of meeting together, mostly using online platforms. If you would like to be involved in a group, or just want more information, simply email [info@c3denton.com](mailto:info@c3denton.com)