

Northern Light United Church

COVID-19 BE SAFE Plan Overview

Approved Council August 13, 2020

Northern Light United Church (NLUC) has been closed to in-person worship and most building use since mid-March. The attached Northern Light United Church COVID-19 – BE SAFE Plan was revised and adopted by the Council on August 13, 2020. The plan outlines the safety precautions required of all users and includes an addendum for specific uses of the building.

The NLUC Council authorized two task forces to draft the plans for a phased re-opening of the church. The Building Use Task Force has focused on the safe use of the church building both for direct ministry work and for outside users who use the building. The members include Karen Dillon (chair), Jane Ginter, Joy Lyon, Patsy Wright, Myra Munson, Linda McCargar, Jean Ann Alter, and Mary Gramling. The Worship Task Force has focused on enhancing the current virtual worship experience, upgrading our technology capabilities for worship and other virtual connectional experiences, and how to phase in in-person worship. The members include Margaret MacKinnon (chair), Jane Ginter, Myra Munson, Jean Ann Alter, Carol Barril, April Rezendes, Peggy Sue Wright, Kristi McGuire, Mary Gramling, and Faith McClellan.

Both task forces have been meeting weekly since early June. They have used guidance documents from both of our affiliated denominations, *Re-Imagining Life Together* from the Greater Northwest Area of the United Methodist Church and *Recommendations on Re-entry for Congregations* from the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast. Both documents provide guidance on a re-opening in phases.

Northern Light United Church's primary goal is to ensure the safety of our congregation and others using our building, while providing meaningful worship and other experiences for spiritual growth and connections. The plan describes the safety precautions in detail, including wearing masks, sanitizing hands, and maintaining social distance. All users of the building will be asked to agree to the terms of a Covenant of Care addressing these precautions.

Currently worship is held virtually through Zoom and will continue to be offered virtually even when in-person worship is offered at some point in the future. All committees and other opportunities such as Men's Breakfast, Community of Christian Women, and study groups are held virtually by Zoom. The only allowed use of the building is described in the plan itself and the addenda.

Future movement into in-person worship and other uses of the building will be based on current scientific information, state and local mandates and guidance, and guidance and mandates from our affiliated denominations. The decision to move to the next phase or, if changing circumstances make it necessary, retract to an earlier phase, will be determined by the Council, NLUC governing body, through approval of modifications to the BE SAFE Plan. Updated plans will be provided to both denominations for review and approval.

The NLUC Council appreciates the work of the Task Forces and the guidance provided by the Greater Northwest Area of the United Methodist Church and the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast. Any questions about this plan can be directed to Pastor Faith McClellan, Council Moderator Mary Gramling, or BE SAFE Plan Coordinator Myra Munson.