

Southern Hills Mennonite Church: Limited Reopening Plan

June 10, 2020

Many attendees of SHMC are at higher risk from COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions or age. As such, Church Council and Diaconate encourage individuals who are at risk or have any concerns with in-person attendance to continue joining worship through our virtual church services. SHMC will continue to stream the church services even when we emerge from the current health emergency.

The following plans are made by Church Council based on recommendations from Shawnee County Health Department and informed by a survey sent to our congregation. All plans for reopening may change due to infection rates in Shawnee County or other health related concerns.

Limited Reopening

During Limited Reopening, SHMC will implement the precautions detailed below.

- **Church Services** Continue to live-stream church services while offering limited in-person attendance up to a total of **45** in-person participants adhering to the following precautions:
 - ***Worship Items:*** We will not use hymnals, pads of registration, pencils, or pass the offering plates during the church service. Copies of bulletins and songs will continue to be emailed to the congregation. The offering plate will be available for no-touch drop off of contributions.
 - ***Music:*** All music during the service will be instrumental or sung by a song leader without in-person congregational participation.
 - ***Seating:*** Rows will be arranged six (6) feet apart with in-person attendees maintaining at least three (3) empty chairs between individuals and/or family groups.
 - ***Attending in Person:*** To attend in-person, please call or email the church office to reserve a space for yourself and family members. Priority will be given to those leading the service, their families, and those without the ability to attend church virtually.
 - ***Next Steps:*** When Church Council and Diaconate believe conditions in Shawnee County allow for a partial reopening or more in-person participation. After starting with 45 in attendance, the next step will allow a maximum of 60 participants. Overflow to the Fellowship Hall will also be considered.

- **Personal Prevention** Personal prevention practices should be followed by all in-person attendees:
 - Stay home if feeling ill or running a fever.
 - Cover coughs or sneezes and frequently wash hands.
 - Wear face coverings to prevent the spread of the virus. Exceptions made only for those speaking/performing.
 - Maintain six (6) feet of social distance from other individuals while in the church. This includes the avoidance of physical greetings such as handshakes and hugs.

- **Entering and Exiting**
 - All attendees will enter through the North entrance (closest to 37th street).
 - All attendees will exit via the South doors to maintain one-way flow.
 - Using door stops, greeters will facilitate a touchless entrance and exit.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrances.
 - Please bring your own face covering as there will be limited face coverings available.

- **Small Groups and Sunday School Classes**

- Adult Sunday School classes/prayer groups have the option of meeting via Zoom during this time.
- Intergenerational Sunday School classes are cancelled for summer 2020.
- Children and Youth Sunday School will resume once public schools return to in-person attendance.

- **Facilities** Not all facilities will be available due to disinfection and cleaning challenges.

- ***Sanctuary:*** Worship space will be cleaned and disinfected for Sunday morning. In general, other uses are not allowed. Exceptions are to be cleared with Trustees.
- ***Restrooms:*** Only the sanctuary restroom will be available on Sunday morning and limited for one person/family at a time. Please wait outside restroom while maintaining six (6) feet of distance.
- ***Fellowship Hall:*** Prior to the weekly cleaning/disinfection, the Fellowship Hall is available on a limited basis for committee meetings, with members disinfecting space after use. Any additional usage is to be cleared with Trustees so they can arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting.
- ***Basement, Kitchen and Water Fountain:*** To reduce the amount of intense cleaning necessary, these areas will not be available during limited opening.
- ***Weekly Cleaning:*** The church will be cleaned each week following [CDC Guidelines](#), with a focus on high touch areas such as microphones, door handles, bathrooms, and tops of chairs in the sanctuary. Trustees may consider hiring a professional cleaning service.

- **Committee Meetings** It is recommended that small groups and committees continue to meet virtually.

- If in person meetings are necessary, space may be reserved through the church office.
- All personal prevention precautions outlined above should be followed.
- If an in-person meeting is held, the organizer is responsible for disinfecting the space after the event.

- **Church Office**

- The Church Office will be open.
- Signs will be posted regarding face coverings and social distancing.

Returning to Normalcy

When the CDC and Shawnee County Health Department declare that the Coronavirus Pandemic is under control, SHMC will consider the steps to return to traditional practices.