

May 20, 2020

Covid-19 update from the UCCC Elders

We share with you Psalm 122:1, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Our situation has changed since David wrote this Psalm, and we know that "we ourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit lives in us;" nevertheless, these words are inspirational today as we long to worship together again in the same physical space.

In the wake of changes regarding the "stay at home" order and all the prayers asking for God's guidance and wisdom, the elders and ministers have met to discuss next steps toward providing the opportunity for public worship. It is our intention that the first opportunity will be made available to you on Sunday June 7 at 10:30 a.m. That said, we recognize that some will not feel comfortable rejoining the assembly on that day and we understand and respect your choice. It is our hope that each of us would seek God in prayer, consider the risks carefully and make the right choice for you and your family. We will continue to offer the opportunity to worship online (www.UniversityCityChurchofChrist.org) and convert from prepared videos to live-streaming. Currently, we are only re-opening the opportunity for public worship; there will not be Bible classes at this time. We will consider offering on-site classes at a later time.

By faith, we understand that God is not limited by the physical boundaries proven by science. God has power and authority over nature. Nevertheless, the ability to research and discover is one of the talents God has given us, and we should not ignore what we have learned. Even though we offer the option to worship publicly, we intend to recognize certain measures that will help us to worship safely.

In the interest of safety, respect and courtesy, please note the following:

- If you are sick, please stay home
- Unless given expressed permission from certain families/individuals please continue to maintain six feet of separation throughout the assembly from families/individuals not in your party
- Red "x's" will be taped to the sidewalk as you approach the building as a reminder to maintain separation between groups/individuals that did not come in the same vehicle
- Please keep the foyer open making every effort to carry on conversations in the more open space of the sanctuary, so there will be no hindrance to accessing the building.
- There will be no passing of trays for communion or offering. Cups and wafer packages will be available in bags as you make your way through the foyer. The packages will be available in bags so that you will have a convenient way to discard the refuse as you leave.
- There will be a box available for you to deposit the offering on the way in or out of the building.
- Every other row will be roped off to encourage distancing while in the sanctuary. Please make a conscious effort to spread out and take into consideration that the air expressed while singing will cover more distance than that for normal breathing/conversation.
- It is possible to be infected with the virus and not be aware of it. Therefore, to help minimize the transfer of virus to others please wear a mask while you are moving about including entering and exiting the building.
- We will not be asking for attendance cards to be filled out nor will there be pens in the pews at this time. Please bring your own writing implement to take notes.

- At this time, “training for worship” will not be offered.
- The nursery will be open for mothers to retreat to but will not be attended. The nursery includes a speaker so that mothers can still participate by listening while in the nursery.

Please continue to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection. The Lord has been gracious to us in so many ways. May our gratitude be pleasing to him. We are preparing for our next communication but in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to us at UCCCElder@gmail.com if you have any questions or recommendations.

Pleased to be at your service,

The Elders