

May 15, 2020

Dear Village,

I wanted to send a quick note in light of the recent changes taking place across our state as certain counties move into Phase One of the Governor's reopening plan as of late yesterday.

According to experts, it is unlikely that Washington County will enter Phase One for another few days or possibly weeks. Even when we enter Phase One, gatherings will be restricted to 25 people or less in a situation where social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained. We do not yet know the requirements for "mass gatherings" in Phases 2 and 3. Simply put, there are still too many variables for us to know exactly when churches can reopen and in what sort of limited capacity. For now, we will continue to operate as we have since mid-March. Because of the demographic considerations and amount of people at risk in a multigenerational and multicultural church, we'll likely be a bit more cautious in reopening than some smaller or nearby churches. Decisions on when and how to gradually reopen will be made by our staff management team as they are informed by our COVID Task Force.

Our priority remains a Christlike attitude, our love for one another, and a focus on being good neighbors to our local and state community. We have been prioritizing the safety of vulnerable persons in our church and neighborhoods since March, and are amazed at the ways God has opened avenues for service and collaboration to meet people's needs. We continue to pray daily for all adversely affected by this quarantine and disruption to normal life—especially those severely impacted economically and with physical and mental health.

We truly believe this is a moment where our love and respect as Christian churches can speak volumes to the Greater Portland Area. We are seeking to continue honoring our government authorities and collaborate for the greater good of the kingdom wherever possible. To that end, I am reminded of Paul's great declaration, "I face daily my concern for *all* the churches." May God use this season to bring about growth both in our lives and the Church in America.

We will continue to communicate as there are updates and as we have more information regarding timelines and stages of reopening the Village campus for greater ministry. In the meantime, we pray for patience, safety, and well-being for our whole congregation.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ken