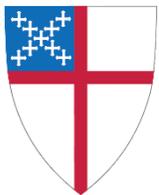




REGATHERING



Christ Episcopal Church
Eureka • California



*We seek to glorify God, follow Jesus Christ,
and serve all people through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

FOUR-STAGE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and at the direction of our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Megan M. Traquair in a communication to the diocese in May 2020, a team of Christ Episcopal Church members was assembled by the rector, the Rev. Dr. Daniel D. London, on June 9, which included clergy, vestry members, lay leaders and musicians. The experience brought to the team includes individuals that have worked in large state agencies, higher-education, California public schools, a certified medical professional (RT) along with small business owners and career clergy. These individuals bring a wealth of knowledge to the team from the public and private sectors.

On March 12, 2020, the Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California (EDNC) issued a pastoral opinion directing all congregations to cease gathering for regular worship beginning Sunday, March 15, 2020, and to offer worship using online tools. On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a state-wide executive order for all Californians to shelter-in place. This was followed on March 20, 2020, with the County of Humboldt issuing a shelter-in-place order effective through April 9, 2020.

Since that time the pandemic has grown in ways few imagined, and restrictions on in-person gatherings have been extended several times. The clergy and lay leaders have responded to these restrictions immediately by cancelling in-person services and, in three days, developed and conducted our first live-stream worship service on March 15 – The Third Sunday in Lent. The Old Testament reading appointed was Exodus 17:1-7, where after their release from the Egyptian regime, the Israelites spent time wandering in the wilderness, a barren and unforgiving land. It is here that the Israelites started to form an identity as a people, but they faced a daunting challenge. Daunting challenge – what a reading to start our time of shelter-in-place over these past 13 weeks.

Thus, it is time to start on the gradual, responsible and safety-conscious road to regathering on our church campus. This will be done with government, CDC and other health professionals' guidelines in mind. Currently we are at the beginning – only meeting online. Stages outlined below are based on changing health trends and recommendations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Christ Episcopal Church clergy and lay leaders are committed to making each worship service the best it can be while still submitting to the larger scope of wisdom regarding in-person gatherings. This situation is fluid, yet, despite the uncertainty, we have been working on a staged plan to slowly reopen our church campus. This plan prioritizes love for our neighbors by keeping people safe (Matthew 22:39 “...*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”) showing proper, biblical respect for our government officials (Romans 13:1 “*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.*”), and demonstrating that we trust our Church family to make wise decisions.

We desire to gather in person. We anticipate that this is the beginning of a 12-18 month process of planning and changing. Along with that, this four-stage plan will go through multiple revisions and updates. The diocese leadership has articulated three priorities: Observe public health initiatives as they are made known, strive to protect those who are the most vulnerable, and work to slow the progression of illness through prevention and mitigation. Our parish leaders participate in weekly diocesan COVID-19 Leadership calls which keep the parishes connected with the diocese as well as provide a time to share resources with our fellow parishes.

In addition, we will employ the following best practices:

BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH SAFETY

Medical professionals: We will work with county and state medical professionals to develop best practices related to the health of those attending in-person worship. The Regathering Task Force will provide oversight and ensure we are adhering to basic health protocols.

• **General Guidance:** Each person has a responsibility to look out for the welfare of others. From the CDC: symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Appropriate social distancing: Since the standard is 6 feet for appropriate social distancing, we will utilize that standard in calculating the distance between family units in pews, worship leaders, and all volunteers and staff.

- **Provide COVID-19 protection:** We will offer masks, gloves, and hand sanitizing stations throughout the church campus and at exits and entrances. *(See Appendix B – Items needed for Regathering)*
- **Discourage personal contact:** We will discontinue coffee hour, and other events offering food and beverages.
- **Clean & clean again:** We will do whatever it takes to ensure a clean building. Protocols have been implemented to reduce the spread of the virus on campus. *(See Appendix D – Cleaning Protocols for Regathering)*
- **CDC Guidelines:** Follow specific CDC guidance for childcare or educational programming for children and youth, as well as encouraging those with underlying health conditions to avoid in-person gatherings (for a detailed list, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>)

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

- We will continue to offer livestreaming of worship as in-person phases begin. In this way, the church provides two options: limited worship in the church and livestreaming online.
- We will likely provide pre-registration for in-person worship with a limit to attendees, based on the Governor's guidelines and our capacity with social distancing measures in place. Although we will reduce seating capacity for in-person worship services, family units can be seated together.
- Small groups/Sunday School classes may continue to meet online in early phases or meet in small units during the week practicing social distancing and high safety and health standards. Classrooms on campus will not be available during initial phases of reopening and will remain closed to outside groups.

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON COVID-19

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California: <http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/covid-19-health-and-safety>
Humboldt County: <https://humboldt.gov.org/2018/Humboldt-Health-Alert>
CDC's main COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
California Department of Public Health Guidance for Places of Worship: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>
California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOUR STAGE PLAN

SOCIAL DISTANCING	STAGE ZERO	STAGE ONE BEGAN LATE JUNE	STAGE TWO TBA	STAGE THREE AND FOUR TBA
Vulnerable Populations*	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home	See Appendix A - STAGES THREE and FOUR – Considerations for Plan Development
Those w/symptoms of COVID-19	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home	
Max Groups/Crowds Worship Services	0 Zoom/YouTube worship online. Officiant and Worship/Lay Leaders join through Zoom from individual homes. Virtual Verger joins alone from the church nave.	1 or Two Officiant returns to Christ Church chancel with virtual verger live-streams worship using Zoom /YouTube. Other worship leaders join through Zoom from their homes, much like we have been doing over the last several months.	No more than 10 Officiant, Organist, Choir Director or Soloist, Live stream Technician.	
Requirements for Worship Services	Virtual Verger broadcast from chancel on Sunday The Verger cleans/sanitizes entry/exit doors, surfaces.	- wearing masks ¹ - using hand sanitizer - no singing - maintain six feet of distance (use six-foot-long stick)	- wearing masks - using hand sanitizer - no singing - maintain six feet of distance (use six-foot-long stick)	
Sacred Saunter			See Appendix G	
Chapel/Labyrinth	Under development	Underdevelopment	Underdevelopment	
Office Staff	Office closed to the Public. Essential services only, one staff member in office at a time.	Office closed to the Public. Essential services only, one staff member in office at a time.		
Worship Team	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	
Choir	Closed	Virtual	Virtual	
Concerts	Closed	Closed	Closed	
Outside Use of Facilities (Lewis Hall, Education Building, Chapel)	Closed	Closed	Virtual/online Coffee Hour	

¹ Masks can only be removed when a person is participating/leading in worship, facing the camera and at least six feet away from another person.

Restrooms	Closed	Closed	Limited	
-----------	--------	--------	---------	--

*Vulnerable Populations as Defined by the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

Vulnerable populations include, but is not limited to:

- People 65 years and older.
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including: chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma; serious heart conditions; 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.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI of 40 or higher]).
- People with diabetes.

FAQ

How will we make sure people are not sitting too close to one another?

We have two PVC pipes cut to six-foot length and capped at both ends. These are being used to measure the distance in every direction around a family unit in the nave. Places of worship must limit indoor attendance to 25% of building capacity or 100 attendees, whichever is lower. The nave of the church holds approximately 144 individuals in the pews. With a 25% indoor attendance restriction, the nave, with spatial distancing of six feet in all directions around a family unit the nave may accommodate 36 to 40 persons.

What if more people show up than we can accommodate in the nave and chancel?

Consideration is being made to use some space in the Heritage Room and place monitors in Lewis Hall for live-stream the service to accommodate individuals. We will develop a reservation system (email to a dedicated email address or Eventbrite) to limit the number of parishioners/visitors attending in-person worship. This can include the use of digital platforms or other types of tools which are under consideration for Phase 3 and 4.

Where do I enter?

All parishioners, volunteers and clergy will enter through the Lewis Hall doors. A team dedicated to check-in will perform a health check on all attendees before being they are guided to the nave of the church. (This health check is being done daily in the church office). Once at the nave an usher will take the individual or family unit to a seat (which may not be their usual one seat). The State of California recommends asking parishioners/visitors to arrive and leave in a single group to minimize crossflow of people. Welcome and dismiss parishioners/visitors from worship spaces in an orderly way to maintain physical distancing and minimize crossflow of traffic, to the extent possible.

Should I wear a mask?

Yes. On Friday, April 26, 2020 Humboldt County began requiring a face covering in any building (one's home is exempt), before entering an enclosed space, and outdoors unless one can maintain six feet distance. On June 18, 2020 the State of California issued guidance requiring that people in California must wear face coverings when they are in high-risk situations; inside or in line to enter, [any indoor public space](#); A key prevention practice is use of a face covering. Masks will be available should a parishioner or visitor forget to bring one to in-person worship services. Masks can only be removed when a clergy or lay leader is facing the camera and at least six feet away from another person during a Worship Service.

Will the restrooms be open?

The State of California recommends limiting the number of people that use the restroom at one time to allow for physical distancing. As our restrooms are single use that consideration meets guidelines, however, we will have to leave enough space to allow for spatial distancing for people waiting to use the restrooms. The floor will have signs so individuals can maintain a 6ft distance. Restrooms present a challenge because they will require frequent disinfecting on commonly used surfaces including doorknobs, toilets, handwashing facilities. Services will be 1-hour or less when we first return to in-person worship thus reducing the need for restrooms.

How will offering be received?

The State of California and EDNC recommends discontinuing passing offering plates and similar items that move between people. An alms basin will be placed on a table centrally located as individuals are escorted into the nave. We also offer two options for online giving with either PayPal or Tithe.ly. Donations “buttons” are available from the main webpage and in the weekly email updates. And of course you can still mail your pledge or gifts to the church.

Where is the Book of Common Prayer, the Bible and Hymnal that was in the pew rack?

The CDC and the State of California recommend that sharing of items used in worship, temporarily be discouraged. Parishioners will be encouraged to bring their own Book of Common Prayer. Any Worship Bulletins if provided will be single use.

What about Communion?

EDNC recommends that parishes have Morning Prayer or the Ante-Communion² service for the first month of regathering in person, especially if the safety measures required for celebrating the Holy Eucharist will be too much for congregations to manage at first once in-person worship is restored.

Will there be Children’s Sunday School during the regular worship service?

Children should remain in the care of those in their household unit and not interact with children of other parishioners or visitors at any time while visiting the church campus. Play areas have been closed and/or removed. It is recommended that we discontinue activities and services (Foster Friday, Music and Arts Camp) for children where physical distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained.

² The liturgy of the word (Pro-anaphora) from the eucharist, without the Great Thanksgiving or communion of the people.

APPENDIX A - STAGES THREE and FOUR – Considerations for Plan Development

Places of worship are encouraged to continue to provide services through alternative methods. Episcopal Diocese of Northern California highly recommends that churches with the resources to do so should continue using technology for online worship and meetings.

As we begin to consider holding in-person services, we know that there will be parishioners that will still need or prefer to worship online. The Regathering Task Force believes that before Stages 3 and 4 can be developed we two things:

1. Input from the congregation. We have developed a simple survey (Appendix F – Regathering Survey)
2. Continued monitoring of local Coronavirus infections and deaths in Humboldt County and throughout California, and continued reconsiderations according to new information.

The Task Force will give consideration prior to Stage Three to holding in-service meetings or providing in-person services outside whenever possible. This opens the door for creative ways to minister to our congregation (such as return of the Sacred Saunters with its own safety guidelines)

Stages Three and Four will also require significant training and organization to resume in-person worship. Considerations include but are not limited to:

- How many people can our worship space hold if you are worshipping in family groups sitting 6 feet apart in every direction?
- How will we cap attendance at worship services or events so there is room for members of the community to join and don't go over guidelines.
- Will services need a reservation list and more logistical coordination?
- Can you continue small group gatherings online (Vestry, Worship Committee, Coffee Hour, Bible Study)?
- Outside Use of Facilities – can we update our building - use agreements to reflect the new realities of COVID-19?
- How will we ensure sanitation and disinfection of our physical plant?
- How do we keep track and keep accurate records of those attending?

Proposed Stage Three: Start Long-term Live stream of Morning Prayer Services from Chancel (TBA)

Officiant, Organist/Musician, Choir Director/Soloist, Livestream Technician start live-streaming from the chancel using long-term set up and equipment. No more than three other people can be present, and they must be performing essential roles for live stream. In other words, if you are helping with the livestream then you will likely be given a role in worship, but if you are not helping with the livestream, then you cannot be physically present.

Requirements for those in the nave:

- wearing masks¹
- using hand sanitizer
- limited singing permitted: David sings by the Christ icon and kneeler at the back of the nave
- maintain six feet of distance (use six-foot-long stick)

Preparation for Phase Four:

- Formation and training of Usher team
- Formation of Mask Guild
- Decide upon maximum number for safe occupancy in Nave, Heritage Room, and Lewis Hall

Questions:

-Can we start offering Sacred Saunters (Outdoor Eucharists) for a limited number of people during this time?

STAGE FOUR: Holy Eucharist with Limited Number of People in Nave while Livestreaming – 30% to 50% reduction in attendance

Officiant, Deacon(s), Organist/Musician, Choir Director/Soloist, Livestream Technician start live-streaming from the chancel using long-term set up and equipment.

With Live stream team members, hygiene team members and ushers in place, a limited number of people join us by appointment or reservations (Eventbrite) for worship on Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Pews are marked in order to ensure physical distancing.

Only the consecrated bread is administered.

Requirements for those in the nave:

-wearing masks¹

-using hand sanitizer

-limited singing permitted: David sings by the Christ icon and kneeler at the back of the nave

-maintain six feet of distance (use six-foot-long stick)

APPENDIX B - STAGES THREE and FOUR – Items needed to Regather

Sanitation

The following items will be required to safely resume in-person worship.

- Touch Free Hand Sanitizer Dispensers recommended for lobbies and high traffic areas

Technology

The following items will be necessary to provide high-quality live streaming:

- List computer hardware and software

The following items have been identified in order to provide overflow capacity (seating in Heritage and Lewis Halls) for in-person worship:

(To be developed)

Teams

Live-stream Team

Description of responsibilities and proposed training.

(To be developed)

Hygiene Team

Description of responsibilities and proposed training.

Disinfect microphones and stands, pulpit and lectern between use.

(To be developed)

Registration Teams

Description of responsibilities and proposed training.

Open Doors and Windows to introduce fresh air, turn on fans to help circulate air flow through building

Register attendees and perform Health Check (see appendix C)

Ask people displaying symptomatic behavior to kindly leave.

Keep track of the number of attendees to ensure maximum capacity is not violated.

(To be developed further)

APPENDIX B - STAGES THREE and FOUR (continued)

Ushers (re-envisioned duties)

Description of responsibilities and proposed training.

Before worship:

- Set-up check-in table(s)
- Place hand sanitizer, masks, and worship bulletins for congregants to pick up *themselves*.
- Review check-in list for those attending (reservations)*
- Prop open entrance doors (Lewis Hall).
- Disinfect all interior door knobs and restroom light switches.
- Disinfect door handles repeatedly and consistently.
- Place offering receptacle(s) in visible a location(s).

Guide attendees (while social distancing) to available seats, keeping in mind size of household. There should be no open seating. Help parishioners through, *“but, this not my pew, I always sit in the pew over there.”*

Seat attendees in available spaces from front to back as they enter, and guide them out from back to front as they exit, always maintaining six feet of distance in all directions.

Attendees should be advised to remain in the area where they are seated until the service is over and an usher guides them to the designated exit, inasmuch as is possible, to maintain appropriate social distancing at all times.

Provide recycling bins for attendees to discard used bulletins as they exit. Used bulletins should not be reused for subsequent services.

Disinfect door handles and other contact surfaces after the service ends. (This is required if we have a second service immediately following).

Printed checklists of the above protocols are kept current as a record for contact tracing for Humboldt County. See Appendix D of this document for a sample disinfecting checklist.

** Decide if we will use a reservation tool like Eventbrite to manage the number of attendees or an alternative, such as limiting attendance alphabetically (although this does not provide as clear a way to determine if you will exceed your capacity as a reservation system will do). Always leave a few spaces (perhaps between three and five) for newcomers/seekers.

APPENDIX C - STAGES THREE and FOUR – Employee/Visitor Screening Log

State of California recommends temperature and/or symptom screenings for all staff and visitors. This log is developed from recommended screening questions for reopening from Humboldt County, State of California, and CDC. This form will be used to screen individuals attending services on the church campus.

Church Office – including Administrative Assistant's desk, common work area, Treasurer's Office, Rector's Office.

The Church will open for work because there is enough space for social distancing. Workers are required to wear face covering in the church office suite unless they are alone. During phase one there should be no more than 1 person per 300 square feet. Staff and employees may return to the church office on a limited basis to perform duties that cannot be performed from home. Equipment should not be shared unless necessary. If some uses it they should sanitize it when done.

- Hand-sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes will be available upon entry into the Church office.
- Staff, volunteers, and visitors will maintain their own health screening and log it.
- Cleaning and wiping down of high-risk surfaces will be done at beginning and end of each day by either the Sexton or Administrative Assistant.
- Shared office equipment (copiers, printers, telephones, keyboards, staplers, etc.) will be wipe with a cleaner appropriate for the surface between shifts or uses, whichever is more frequent by the Administrative Assistant.

Entry/Exits Doors to campus buildings

We will install hand sanitizer dispensers, preferably touchless, at entrances to high traffic campus buildings.

High Traffic Areas

We will perform thorough cleaning of high traffic areas such as lobbies, halls, chapels, meeting rooms, offices, libraries, and study areas and areas of ingress and egress. We will frequently disinfect commonly used surfaces including doorknobs, toilets, handwashing facilities, pulpits and podiums, donation boxes or offering plates, altars, and pews and seating areas.

Restrooms

Lewis Hall and Heritage Room

Nave

Chancel

Vesting Room

Educational Building

Chapel

Choir Room

Zander Room

APPENDIX D – Cleaning Protocols for Regathering (continued)

Disinfecting Checklist

List of touch surfaces to be disinfected for Sunday services.

- Entrance/Exit door(s) handles (outside and inside and areas around door handles)
- Doors to restrooms
- Light switches restrooms
- Faucet handles in restrooms
- Doors and toilet handles
- Altar rail
- Backs of pews
- Pew cushions of used areas
- Interior door to Nave
- Light switches for Lewis Hall, Heritage Room, Nave and Narthex

Date: _____

Time of day completed: (examples)

Before 8:00 a.m. Service

Before 10:30 a.m. Service

Before Compline

Other _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

APPENDIX E – Outside Use of Facilities (Lewis Hall, Education Building, Chapel)

Plan for updating Outside Use of Facilities – update our building use agreements to reflect the new realities of COVID-19? What will be the responsibility of outside groups? What will the cleaning protocols be?

APPENDIX F – Congregation Regathering Survey

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Regathering Task Force, which includes Clergy, staff, and lay leaders, is currently in the process of developing a four-stage plan for the resumption of in-person, public worship at Christ Church. As we develop our guidelines and plans for the coming months, we want to gather input from the parish about worship during our time apart and your readiness to return to in-person worship.

Decisions will be made according to the advice of federal, state and local public health officials and guidelines from the diocese.

Please help us by responding to this survey. Please complete the survey and return in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope by **TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020** or complete the online survey available in the weekly Email Updates.

1. Have you been participating in our online worship services during this time?

YES NO

2. Have our online services been helpful to you during this time?

YES NO

2a Comments:

3. Which “Worship at Home” options are you participating in or plan to participate in during this time of COVID-19 restrictions? (mark all that apply)

- Joining real-time worship via Christ Church’s YouTube channel
- Watching recorded livestream Sunday worship at other times during week
- Tuesday Compline via Zoom
- Bible Study via Zoom (under development)
- Reading the Sunday Lectionary (Scripture)
- Praying the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer.
- Daily reading of other devotionals, e.g. Forward Day by Day *(we will mail you one!)*

Other: *(tell us what other programs/services you would like us to offer during this time)*

Survey continues on the reverse

4. Under current COVID-19 restrictions (*early* Stage 2: Lower-Risk workplaces), when would you be comfortable participating in person for worship or other church activities? (mark one)

- I am ready to come back now!
- 15 days without new COVID-19 confirmed cases in Humboldt County
- 30 days without new COVID-19 confirmed cases in Humboldt County
- Stage 3 (Higher-risk workplaces) under State and County Guidelines
- Stage 4 (End of Stay at Home Order) under State & County Guidelines
- Not until I am vaccinated against COVID-19
- Unsure at this time
- Other: _____

5. Of the following options for in-person gathering under COVID-19 restrictions, which ones would you participate in? (*mark all that apply*)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Worship on Church Campus | <input type="checkbox"/> Nave/Main Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Saunter/Sequoia Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education in Lewis Hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lewis Hall Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel | _____ |

6. Which age range best describes you:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 to 49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ |

Name _____ (optional)

7. Do you have children under the age of 13 living with you?

- YES NO

8. Do you have health issues that could be exacerbated by a COVID-19 infection?

*Vulnerable Populations as defined by the CDC: People 65 years and older; People of all ages with underlying medical conditions; People with diabetes; for full list visit CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

(response is optional) YES NO

9. What are some things not mentioned previously that you think need to be accomplished before you feel comfortable returning to in-person worship? What other concerns do you have that the Task Force needs to be aware of? _____

Feel free to add additional comments on separate piece of paper

**Please return this survey in the stamped, self-addressed envelope to:
Christ Episcopal Church, PO Box 861, Eureka, CA 95502-0861
or**

Email: christchurcheureka@gmail.com

APPENDIX G – Emergency Protocols

Should a parishioner or any other person who has come to the church develop COVID-19, or should a staffer or clergy person come into contact with someone with the virus, the wisdom now being shared is this:

- Close and lock the building
- Arrange for disinfection of all of the areas where the person might have been. Current guidance is to wait 24 hours between closing the building and allowing the professional cleaning team enter to disinfect.
- Determine who may have had direct contact with the person. Identify close contacts (within six feet for 15 minutes or more – first degree contact) of an infected individual and take steps to isolate COVID-19 positive staff and close contacts.
- Determine who had contact with the persons who had direct contact (second degree contact). There are two options for these persons: (i) immediately self-quarantine, or (ii) wait until they understand the test results of those who had first-degree contact. Obviously, the safer plan is to self-quarantine immediately. It is the decision of the Rector or Humboldt County Health Official, which of these options will be followed. In instances where a staff member is involved, there shall be no case in which this person is penalized if s/he wants to take the more cautious option.
- In consultation with the company that disinfects the areas, determine how long the building should remain closed to all.
- Communicate with parishioners that this has happened, that the affected areas are being thoroughly disinfected, and that you will announce when the building will reopen. Encourage parishioners who have been in the building to let the senior cleric know if they have been diagnosed. As always, encourage those who feel ill to stay at home and consult their own physician.

This protocol is based on the current guidelines offered by health experts in late May of 2020. This may change as we learn more about the transmissibility of the virus and about necessary protective steps.

APPENDIX H – Guidelines for Outdoor Worship (Sacred Saunters)

On select Saturdays at 11 AM, we will celebrate an outdoor service at [Sequoia Park](#) in Eureka CA while sauntering through the redwood trees. We will gather at the park entrance for opening prayer and then saunter to a beloved sequoia tree that we affectionately call “the gargoyle tree” because of its delightfully gnarled burls. At a minimum, outdoor attendance will be limited to 15 individuals and the implementation of strict physical distancing measures of a minimum of six feet between attendees from different households, in addition to other relevant protocols

Requirements for Sacred Saunter

Individuals will need to reserved attendance by emailing the Church Office.

Group size will be limited to 10 people including church staff/volunteers

A roster will be provided to the clergy and a registration team member.

Registration Team Member

- Stationed at the park entrance.

- Greet each individual from a distance (mimumum 6ft).

- Maintain registration roster

- Remind individuals of mandated mask requirement

- Invite anyone who does not have a mask to select one from portable display board

- Instructions to be sent via email in advance.

We then pray a Psalm together by a trickling waterfall. From there, we proceed to a nearby bench for the reading of the Gospel and a brief devotional reflection. We then gather around a fountain by a duck pond for the Prayers of the People and the Passing of the Peace. Finally, we slowly ascend a small hill to arrive at a meadow, where we form a circle around a redwood tree trunk altar to sing and celebrate Eucharist.