

## MCCDC COVID Advisory Team Meeting/Recommendations

August 30, 2023

**Attendees:** Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson, Rev. Cathy Alexander, Johanna Hardy, Dale Madyun-Baskerville, Chocolate Miller, Dr. Carla Sherrell, Melvin Moore

### Current Landscape

- While there are news reports of new variants, the D.C. government's official COVID level is set at "LOW" and the available data published by the D.C. government indicates low numbers in terms of cases, hospitalization and deaths.
- It was noted, however, it appears D.C. has not been updating the data as rigorously as before; however, other sources, such as the *New York Times* COVID tracker seems to reinforce low levels.
- For low levels, there is no recommendations related to masking requirements.
- However, given the new variants, the Team recommends continuing to monitor the data.

*Given the current landscape, the Team does not recommend significant changes to MCCDC's current practices with the following notes:*

### Worship Services

- MCCDC should continue and reinforce the practice of providing individual communion packets, which should be handed out. This also provides an opportunity for the servers to explain our open table communion and answer questions on how to use the communion packets.
- MCCDC should continue no hand holding during the Lord's Prayer.
- MCCDC should continue to conduct offerings as currently practiced with electronic giving, a station and plate in Welcome Hall.

### Reminders

- We should remind congregants to stay home if they are not feeling well and join worship on livestream.
- We should remind congregants about flu season and flu shots.

### Refreshments

- The Team agreed it would be appropriate to officially have refreshments following worship services to meet and greet everyone, including guests and new attenders. The Team recognizes that, unofficially, snacks and refreshments have already started to be provided; however, it has been done unofficially and there's been no intentionality to invite everyone, including guests.
- The Team agreed refreshments should be simple and safe –
  - Allowing it to continue organically as it is now so as to not overburden volunteers;
  - Encouraging donations of individually packaged snacks, such as granola bars.
  - Ensuring refreshments not pre-packaged are individually bagged or wrapped;
  - Continuing to allow pick up at the kitchen but encouraging people to come to Welcome Hall to meet and greet;
  - Visitors and guests invited to partake.

### **COVID Tracking and Check-in**

- The Team agreed that COVID Tracking and checking-in everyone should continue. The rationale was not related to a strong feeling tracking needed to continue for COVID, but rather the process ensures everyone is greeted when they arrive and we are able to collect information on who is attending. Having 2-3 people to open the door and welcome people is ideal.

### **Other Notes**

- The signage at the church for COVID should be reviewed and, if needed, updated.