

PASTOR MICHAEL

Regathering Plan Approved by the Deacons, Administrative Board, Finance and Worship Committees:

COVID-19 has specific guidelines regarding the spacing of congregants, which eliminates the use of the Reach Chapel because there is not enough worship space. Our leadership agreed that the only viable solution to that problem is to move the contemporary service to the main sanctuary.

How then do we make a contemporary service work in a traditional setting, while maintaining the integrity of our traditional service and space?

Each service will have separate meeting times:

- The traditional service will meet from 9:00-9:50 AM.
- The contemporary service will begin at 10:50 AM.

Advantages:

1. Everyone is worshipping in the same building.
2. The ministerial staff can be a part of the entire worship experience in each service.
3. The choir no longer must leave Sunday School early to prepare for worship.
4. Younger families that attend the contemporary service have longer to get their children ready for church.
5. It's now easier for members to move back and forth between services of worship. For example, if you can't attend the 10:50 service, you can attend the 9:00 service.
6. This plan gives both services opportunities to grow beyond COVID-19.
7. Andy Shorthill can move his youth ministry from its current location behind the Church Annex into the Reach Chapel, after conversation with the Hispanic Church.
8. The 10:50 start gives more people an opportunity to join us for our Livestream service. Perhaps in the future, both services can be live-streamed.

Plans:

- When Sunday school meets again, gathering for each class will begin around 9:45. Bible Study should begin by 10:00 and conclude no later than 10:40.
- The 9:00 Traditional service will dismiss by 9:50.
- New speakers will be purchased using budgeted money for that purpose for the church sanctuary which will benefit both services.
- Battery-driven shades will be installed at the very top of the stained-glass windows. They will not be distracting when not in use and will be used during the contemporary service to black out the light, costing approximately \$6,000. This was approved in our Future Story.
- Additional lighting will be purchased as needed for the Contemporary Service.

- The Baraca Sunday school class has graciously agreed to move across from the choir room. Their old classroom will be used to store musical equipment and as a control room for livestreaming.

As this plan is implemented, you will recognize that all congregants will be required to “give a little.” There is not a single one of us that will not be affected by some form of change by this plan. In time, it will become part of the new normal. As with any plan, we will evaluate what is working as we move forward and adjust as needed. Our goal continues to be to glorify God in all that we do.

Remember Our Vision: *Impassion People to Follow Jesus.*

Our vision is about people, not buildings, or worship styles, or worship times. Everything we do is designed to reach people. This regathering plan is about keeping our members safe while advancing the vision of our church.

It is a plan that helps us continue on our path of being a passionate follower of Jesus and to help us as we invite others on that journey.

I thank each of you in advance for doing your part to make adjustments in a changing world. Remember, God’s love doesn’t change but God’s love through us does change each of us.