



## **Pandemic Plan for Ministry and Mission** **Working Document Overview 5-11-2020**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The mission of Manchester United Methodist Church is to “make a difference for Christ by transforming church and community.” The congregation lives out this mission as “an inclusive community of people who love Christ deeply, worship him passionately, and serve him boldly.” In order to live out this mission during a time of pandemic, Manchester UMC will do ministry in four phases.

### **GENERAL NOTES for EACH PHASE**

- The phases described below are intended to be descriptions of how Manchester UMC will fulfill our mission in different phases of a season of pandemic. This document should be considered a “working document” in that new experiences and insights can be added. The first section of the document is an “Overview” of the four phases, containing general information. More specific information is included in the “Phase Detail” section that follows.
- In moving from one phase to another, Manchester UMC will nurture ministries that are bearing fruit, and may prune ministries that are not. For example, fruitful online ministry formats utilized in phases one and two should continue in phases three and four. And it should not be assumed that ministries of prior “phase four” periods will return in the same formats, if at all, as gathering restrictions are eased.
- The Circle of Friends Preschool is not specifically included in this ministry plan. The preschool will follow the guidelines that the Parkway School District sets for when to be in session and other issues related to seasons of pandemic.
- Manchester UMC will follow the guidelines of local health officials, district and conference leadership, and established scientific sources in order to keep people as healthy and safe as possible.

[CDC Plans](#)    [Dr. Mike Osterholm video](#)

### **OVERVIEW of PHASES**

#### **Phase 1: Facility unavailable**

- Worship: Online only.
- Faith formation: Online only.
- Generosity: Online, text, or mail in only.
- Mission & Service: Support the work of local agencies.
- Invitation & Hospitality: Social media interactions and phone calls.
- Congregational Care: Phone calls only.
- Officing: Only essential staff on site.

#### **Phase 2: Facility partially available**

- Worship: Online only, and groups may gather in homes to worship together if practicing distancing guidelines.
- Faith Formation: Online encouraged. Small groups may gather in homes if distancing guidelines are met.
- Generosity: Online, text, or mail in only.
- Mission & Service: Continue collaboration with local agencies. May gather off site for small service projects if distancing guidelines are met.
- Invitation & Hospitality: Social media interactions and phone calls.
- Congregational Care: One on one visits permitted if distancing guidelines are met.
- Officing: Staff may be on site if distancing guidelines are met.

**Phase 3: Facility mostly available**

- Worship: Online and in person with intentional distancing practices in place.
- Faith Formation: Groups may gather in homes or in the building if distancing guidelines are met. Groups may continue to meet online or blended.
- Generosity: Online, text, mail in, and drop into a basket in worship (no plates).
- Mission & Service: May use building for service projects if distancing guidelines are met.
- Invitation & Hospitality: Welcome Team and staff modelling and encouraging safe greeting practices.
- Congregational Care: All visits permitted if distancing guidelines are met.
- Officing: Staff may be on site if distancing guidelines are met.

**Phase 4: Facility fully available**

- Worship: Online and in person.
- Faith Formation: Groups meet wherever they desire.
- Generosity: All methods of giving permitted.
- Mission & Service: May use building for all service projects.
- Invitation & Hospitality: Welcome Team and staff aware of safe greeting practices.
- Congregational Care: All visits permitted.
- Officing: Staff may be on site.