Messiah UMC Healthy Church Team Guidelines for the Use of Facilities

The Church Council of Messiah UMC has agreed to open the facilities for small group ministries. The number of people in any one venue is limited to 10 people (excluding leader). The church will be open for six prayer and communion gatherings on Sundays at 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:00 p.m. People coming for these gatherings should review the guidelines of the Virginia Annual Conference regarding the observance of holy communion (<http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/Holycommunion_return.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Stage+2+worship>). The pastor will provide leadership for these gatherings and participants will preregister by using an internet tool. The congregation will be given instructions in weekly emails about how to preregister for these gatherings. The church facilities will also be available for small group ministries as well as recovery/support groups. Small groups using the facilities must use spaces allowing for six feet of social distancing per person. Therefore, such gatherings are restricted to the Youth Center, Rooms 214-216, 263-265, 266-268.

All participants will enter the facilities at the main entrance of the church except for events held in the Youth Center. Participants for events in the Youth Center may enter at the back entrance; however, movement in the facilities should be limited to that entrance, the stairwell, and the Youth Center.

Upon arrival, participants are asked to park vehicles in a way that allows everyone to observe social distancing after exiting automobiles.

The pastor/group leader will assume responsibility for opening the facility to participants. While waiting to enter the facility and while being seated, participants will maintain a distance of six feet and wear masks. While waiting outside and while in the facility, all people will wear masks. The church will not provide masks.

Upon entering the facility, participants will allow a temperature check. Instruments for the temperature check will be provided by the church. Participants must have a temperature of less than 100.4 degrees. The church recognizes that summer heat may cause participants to register a higher temperature and in that event, the participant may rest in the memorial garden for five minutes and have a second temperature check.

Seating will be designated for all participants and participants should take seats beginning at the front of a space and working toward the back of a space. Families/household members are permitted to sit together.

There will be limited use of bathrooms and participants should use bathrooms off of the narthex (except for those using the Youth Center where there are bathrooms within the space). Cleaning supplies will be available in the bathroom. Leaders will insure sanitation of the bathrooms after all participants have exited the building.

No food or drinks will be permitted in the facilities. Participants should refrain from using the water fountains. Participants should not use or share paper products.

Participants must complete the Health Acknowledgment Form and give it to the leader who will in turn leave all documentation in the Church Administrator’s mailbox. English: <https://vaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Health-Acknowledgement-May-29-2020.pdf>. Spanish: <https://vaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FORMULARIO-DE-SALUD-Health-Acknowledgment-form-Covid-19.pdf>.

There is also an electronic Health Acknowledgement Form available that will allow you to complete this requirement without using paper. Our preference is for people to use this tool. Go to

English Form Link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FfgiDTqcWUyKtvtJ5Yr1ng13OdyZX0xBrPhzc-384npURFpBVEJWQUtGSlNSUVVPMVZSUk9WRk5WWC4u>

Spanish Form Link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FfgiDTqcWUyKtvtJ5Yr1ng13OdyZX0xBrPhzc-384npUNkFYSDhFSDFDWkxIVEtINkxNWjRJNUFYVS4u>

If you wish to use the paperless tool, you must complete the form on the Saturday prior to the Sunday and the following week you intend to participate in an onsite activity.

No children under the age of 12 will be permitted in the facilities.

Following the use of rooms, the leader of the event will sanitize areas involving human touch with cleaning materials provided by the church.

Prayer and Communion gatherings will be structured in ways to avoid human touch (e.g., sanctuary doors will remain open; no items will be passed such as offering plates). Communion will be observed with prepackaged communion elements. Communion will not be observed until prepackaged elements arrive (they are currently on backorder).

Parking lot gatherings must also be coordinated with the church office and all social distancing protocols must be observed with parking lot gatherings. Participants must complete the Health Acknowledgement Form and the group needs to register the gathering with the church office 24 hours before using the space. If there are conflicts in the use of the parking lot for gatherings, groups will be accommodated on a first-come, first-use basis. Unauthorized parking lot gatherings will be asked to leave the church premises.

If more than one group is meeting during the same time, the church office will notify leaders and leaders will be expected to work cooperatively to insure that all protocols are observed.