

Policy for Outdoor and Indoor Small Group Events During COVID 19

The important thing was not the place, but the gathering of Christ's body— the people of God—and the presence of Christ among them in Word and Sacrament. B.O.O W-1.02

Objective: The intent of this policy is to allow for the gathering by members of the Congregation and guests at small group worship services and other events at Second Presbyterian Church during the COVID-19 pandemic or similar public health emergencies. This policy strives to conform with regulations of Baltimore City, the recommendations of the Presbytery of Baltimore and Second's Emergency Management Team (EMT) and was approved by the Session in July 2020. It is intended to protect the members of our congregation and our community, particularly those in our most vulnerable populations, while we gather. Anyone wishing to participate in a gathering must follow the guidelines of this policy, including signing the Covenant during event registration, and anyone in direct violation will be asked to leave the gathering. This policy will be reviewed and revised as our situation changes.

I. Covenant

- A. All participants in any gathering at Second Presbyterian Church must sign the Covenant which conforms with the guidelines for attendance described below.
- B. This covenant will be a part of the registration process found online. Responses are collected in the church office.
- C. All gatherings must be approved by Session and the time and location noted in the church office. Spaces in the church will be measured for the maximum number of participants who may attend.

II. Attendance

- A. Every participant must register (secondpresby.org/signups) to attend an event and/or service.
- B. A new registration is required for each event and/or service.
- C. Registration regulates the number of participants and develops a document for contact tracing. This may be done through the church office or through AA and the Counseling Center as approved by EMT.
- D. A gathering is not to exceed the number of allowed participants for that area in order to facilitate appropriate social distancing. This includes staff, worship leaders, and attendees.
- E. If registrations exceed the approved number, a waiting list will be created in the order received. Participants are asked to cancel registrations at least 24 hours in advance if possible. Members on the waiting list will have priority registration for the next scheduled event.
- F. **Unregistered participants will not be admitted to an event.** If participants are not adhering to social distancing, then the event leader will make one request to adhere to social distancing. If participants do not comply, the gathering will be suspended.

G. All participants are asked to take their temperatures prior to attending the gathering and not attend if it exceeds 100.4 degrees.

H. If an individual in the household has experienced any symptoms over the course of the previous 14 days, all members of the household are requested to not attend.

I. If a participant develops COVID 19 in the subsequent 10 days after an event, they shall report this to Pastor Blair.

J. Ushers will obtain a registration list from the office and record attendance. Attendance sheets will be returned to the church office. AA and the Counseling center will keep their own attendance sheets. These may be needed for contact tracing if there is an exposure.

III. Sanitation and Face Masks

A. All participants, including worship leaders, **are required to wear a mask at all times.**

B. There will be hand sanitizers available during all events.

IV. Space and Seating

A. **All participants, including worship leaders, are always required to remain six feet apart** while entering, during the event, upon exiting.

B. Family groups or households may sit together during gatherings. There will be ground markings indicating the six feet of distance and chairs and registrants must remain in them.

C. Chairs will not be provided at outside events. Participants are invited to bring your own chairs or blankets. At indoor events, participants may bring their own chairs or use church furniture and wipe it down after use.

D. There will be designated entrances and exits. Please follow all signage indicating directions.

E. Ushers will seat participants. When waiting to be seated, six feet distance is to be maintained from others.

F. There will be access to bathrooms with social distancing and routine cleaning three times a week.

G. Bottled water may be brought in by participants and all bottles and paper must be collected at the end of each event.

V. Cancellation

Decisions to cancel for any reasons will be made by the worship leader responsible for the event and when possible should be made at least 12 hours prior to the event. Registrants for cancelled events will not have priority for subsequent events.

VI A Community of Faith

A. Please remember what makes this a unique gathering is that we are a community of faith and service.

B. All members are asked to take responsibility for caring for our neighbor by following guidelines set forth by leadership.

C. We ask all others using our shared space to take the responsibility by following the guidelines set forth by the leadership of Second Presbyterian.

6/2020