

May 28, 2020

REOPENING GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

It is such an honor and privilege to be your pastor, but that privilege also carries a great responsibility. As you know, the elders of our church, along with the staff, Ryan and me, have worked prayerfully and purposefully on your behalf since March 13 when life changed for us all. This change has included local churches, mosques, temples and synagogues, not just in the United States, California and Orange County, but around the world. We will not know the full impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic for years to come.

With that said, we have rallied and developed an excellent livestream worship service which will continue to morph and improve. That Sunday service is also aired with a week's delay on Saturday at 11:00am on Laguna Village TV 6. Many weekly campus activities, including meetings of small groups and committees are being experienced through Zoom. It is amazing how community can still be formed and experienced virtually. Even though we all desire face to face interaction, Zoom meetings have helped our Geneva family stay connected.

As the Governor is moving in a very deliberate and careful way to "Reopen" California, Phase 3 has yet to occur. It is in Phase 3 that churches, mosques, temples and synagogues will be allowed to reopen under very strict guidelines for capacity, social distancing, masks, discouraging singing and corporate expressions of liturgy; and no passing of the blessing, offering plates, or registration pads. Clear sanitizing procedures and personal hygiene protocols are outlined. All of these guidelines and procedures are for the safety and wellness of each one of us, particularly those of us 65 and older.

What does all this mean? The Session unanimously voted not to reopen our campus for worship services and activities until social distancing and mask requirements are relaxed. Why? Loving God and loving others requires our making every effort to serve the common good. Yes, preferences were set aside, in order to embrace the greatest good for the greatest number. The status of COVID-19 infection in our community and guidelines for the reopening of businesses and churches are dynamic and the Session will

continue to monitor developments and reassess the status of Geneva's campus as conditions warrant.

In the weeks to come, you will receive a survey asking you where your health comfort zone is with regard to the "Reopening of Geneva" for campus worship services and activities. This is not a vote, but an honest and transparent attempt by the leadership at Geneva to hear from you in a constructive series of brief questions to gain your wisdom.

I covet your prayers for the staff, elders, deacons, Ryan and me as we are grateful for the privilege of loving and serving you.

On the journey with you, I remain faithfully yours,

Steve

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