



# CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## Re-Opening Task Force

Recommendations Approved by the Vestry

July 14, 2020

### Task Force Committee:

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Rev. Brian Raiche; Rev. Pete Jeffrey; Jane Farrar (Senior Warden); Bob Newton (Jr. Warden); Alice Hannon (Music Director); Spencer Dalby (Vestry); Nancy Fraser, Barbara Luddy (Vestry); Kim Manzelli; Ted and Nancy Smethurst, Joyce Witham (Vestry).

### Recommendations to the Vestry:

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The Re-Opening Task Force has the following recommendations for the Vestry for approval:

- Church Building Re-opening: We recommend waiting until early September before considering moving to Phase II of "A Journey by Stages." The committee will continue to meet over the summer, look for sustained improvement in COVID infection rates and review recommendations of the Diocese before proposing an actual date to re-open. The Committee Recommends initiating the next step with our Diocese this summer where a "Re-Opening" Shepherd would be assigned to the parish.

The committee will work on the written plan required by our Diocese in order to get approval to re-open. Additionally, the Committee has completed a parish-wide survey regarding our plan to re-open and their comfort level in returning to on-site worship. The survey is attached. Parishioner names have been removed to protect confidentiality.

- Parish Office: We recommend continuing the current plan of keeping the office closed to parishioners and having our administrator work two days from home and two days on-site. The office would be open to parishioners during Phase II by appointment only.
- The Bargain Box: The committee acknowledged the important ministry of the Bargain Box to the life of our parish. At the same time, there are a number of issues that make re-opening unfeasible for the foreseeable future. These issues include the challenge of social distancing in our small space, the challenge of cleaning and sanitizing both the space and the numerous items the Bargain Box has for sale, the number of volunteers in the "at risk" demographic, as well as the potential liability of opening to the public.

At this time, the Committee recommends not opening the Bargain Box to the public nor accepting donations. The Committee will make future recommendations based on safely progressing through the various stages of re-opening. We will consider limited possibilities for the volunteers to work in the Bargain Box once we are further into Stage II.

- Outside Groups/OA: The committee appreciates the special role support groups play in the life of our community. Supporting OA Groups is part of our outreach. Due to limited resources for proper monitoring and cleaning, liabilities and limited staff, the Committee recommends the parish remain closed to outside groups until we are in Stage IV of *A Journey by Stages*.
- Moving Forward: The committee recommends that we continue to explore various possibilities of parish life through continued livestreams, Zoom meetings and other creative approaches.

Faithfully submitted July 7, 2020  
The Re-Opening Task Force Committee

*Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." John 14:5-6*