

NOTES FROM THE ARLINGTON DS – 6/16/2020

The primary way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships, to how well we know and trust one another...There is one core principal for developing these relationships. People must be engaged in meaningful work together if they are to transcend individual concerns and develop new capacities.

Margaret Wheatley, "When Change is Out of Our Control" from her website, 2002, as quoted in Tod Bolsinger's new book "Leadership for a Time of Pandemic"

1. NEW UPDATES:

- a. **The new guidance on Stage 2 is out** – it's called "Technical Assistance Manual", and you will need to have your HCT review any plans you have developed with this manual in hand. Find it here: <http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/TAM.pdf>
 - i. **I will need to approve any plans for worship or opening up to small groups.**
Have a good overall plan, and then check in with special events or gatherings that are outside of the plan. **PLEASE, NO WORSHIP OR SMALL GROUPS UNTIL I APPROVE THE PLAN!**
 - ii. We will talk about it and do a Q&A on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. – same zoom call info as previous weeks.
 - iii. As I told you all last week, **worship numbers** are ½ of occupancy of the sanctuary (or room you will use for worship) LESS the needed space for physical distancing. **Weddings and funerals** are considered worship, so those are the numbers for those events as well.
 - iv. **Pre-Registration is required with a Health Acknowledgement Form**– this is so we can help with contact tracing should an outbreak occur.
 1. You may think we are over-regulating, micromanaging, trying to limit liability, but in reality, this could happen to any of us:
<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/06/14/wv-jim-justice-national-guard-coronavirus/>
 2. You CAN have a plan for walk-ins, that would look like either saving room for them, or people who are willing to leave the room if walk-ins show up.
 3. **The form itself has been shortened, and you can use EVC to help people use it easily** – a report will be sent to you 4 days before worship of who has filled it out and what they said.
 - v. **Age limitations are gone**, children who can wear masks can attend, and we expect any day now a **limited child care policy for during worship**.
 - vi. **Masks** will be required for everyone, including pastors.
 - vii. **No singing, no choirs.** Music could be pre-recorded, or done in another room and viewed in the sanctuary.
 - viii. **Small groups (not worship) are allowed up to 50 people** – IF the room fits them with physical distancing requirements, or outside. This helps with AA groups,

boy scouts, Bible studies, etc. **Measure all of your rooms for physical distancing, and you will know how many can meet there now.**

- ix. **New baptism guidance included.**
- x. **A whole new outdoor worship (not with cars) included.** This might be a fun way to do something this summer, even if you don't want to bring back official in-person worship? Also opens up prayer vigils, etc.
- xi. **Includes updated communion guidance.**
- xii. **Overall – I think this is clearer and will be of help to you and your HCT.**

b. Stage 2 begins June 21, 2020.

- i. Infections rates continue to decline for Loudoun, Fairfax and Arlington – good news!

c. I am praying at 8:46 a.m. and 8:46 p.m. along with the Council of Bishops. I invite you and your churches to join us! We are praying AND we are working to resist evil and injustice as it has presented itself in the form of racism.

d. Are you reading your books for summer clergy meetings?

- i. We are working on **CEU's for this**, since many of you are missing your usual conferences.
- ii. **Required attendance** at one of the meetings – your choice! – so be sure and get your reading done.
- iii. <https://novaumc.org/ar-clergy/> for the registration and reading list.
- iv. I've added a third book to the leading in a pandemic list – Tod Bolsinger just came out with a new book on it (see the quote above).

2. Reminders:

- a. The clergy ZOOM call continues –Please join us at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday!
 - i. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434526053?pwd=WTlyMDFlaHIreVRwelpyR1dRRnM0dz09>
 - ii. Password: ARClergy

3. Resources:

- a. Cynthia Lopynski from our office is offering mystery worshipers for your online services – contact her at CynthiaLopynski@vaumc.org
- b. Kim Johnson continues to do digital communications consultations – <https://calendly.com/kimjohnson-vaumc/church-communications-consultation>
- c. <https://novaumc.org/covid-19/>
- d. <https://vaumc.org/>

Stay Calm, Stay Connected, Stay the Course!

Sarah