

JUNE 4, 2020 CANON NEWS

from Canon Scott Holcombe
and Canon Justin Holcomb

For the clergy of The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida



COVID-19 UPDATE- PHASE TWO GUIDELINES - June 4,2020

Governor DeSantis' announced that Florida is launching Re-opening Phase Two on Friday, June 5. Movie theatres, arcades, bars, and restaurants will be able to operate at 50% of full capacity inside and full capacity outside as long as social distancing and sanitation protocols are being followed. Retail businesses may open at full capacity with responsible social distancing and sanitation protocols. Churches and other large venues may open under "moderate social distancing protocols. The full details may be found at

<https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/covid19/6.3.2020%20Presentation.pdf>

While it is indeed good news to business and churches, and while ICU hospitalizations related to COVID-19 are down 50% and the number of people on ventilators due to being COVID-19 has dropped 65% (comparing April 12 to June 2, 2020), the need for responsible decisions and wise precautions remain. Safety guidelines for persons 65 and older, warnings for persons with underlying medical conditions, and caution remains for gathering in groups larger than 50.

Modifications for Phase Two – Diocese of Central Florida Guidelines and revisions

DISCERNMENT-

Bishop Brewer wants to make sure that all understand that the decision about when to re-open for in person worship remains the prerogative of the Rector. No one should feel pressured to make any decision about when to re-open or when to make incremental decisions that violate one's sensibilities or pastoral implications for the congregation that they serve.

OCCUPANCY-

For small-medium congregations- recommended at 50, but not to exceed 50% of full capacity
For medium to large congregations- 50% of full occupancy

MASKS

Masks will still be worn during Phase Two by all. The Celebrant/Preacher may remove their mask during the sermon and while celebrating the Eucharist. The Celebrant/ clergy or LEMs will be masked during the distribution of communion.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Florida State Guidelines have been adjusted to "moderate physical distancing", but CDC guidelines remain at 6 feet.

At the exchange of the Peace there will be touch-free greetings with no shaking hands or hugging.

Prayer Books and Hymnals are still removed from pews. Single-use bulletins or a projected image of the text or songs should guide worshippers.

SINGING

Congregational singing is permitted. Masks should still be worn by the congregation. No choirs, but soloists, duets or small ensembles are permitted.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Remains in one kind only, the host may be pre-prepared with a drop of wine. The Chalice shall not be offered to the congregants during this phase.

SANITATION GUIDELINES

Previously published Phase One guidelines remain in effect. Hand Sanitizer, Kleenex tissues, etc., should be readily available. Cleaning Records will still be kept during Phase Two. Pews and frequently touched surfaces should be wiped off with approved alcohol/Clorox wipes between worship services as recommended in Phase One.

COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP

During Phase Two no food or beverage service is permitted.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The risk of infection/exposure still remains high, so ramping up your children's ministry is discouraged through the end of June 2020.

OUTSIDE GROUPS USING YOUR FACILITY

Must still conform to current guidelines in place in the local congregation. After use, all rooms used should be cleaned to current church guidelines.

CHURCH THRIFT SHOPS

Remain closed during Phase Two.

WHAT IF SOMEONE TESTS COVID-19 POSITIVE

Mandatory reporting to the local Health Department is still in effect. The Rector should be notified as well as those that may have come in contact with the individual who tested positive.

WHAT ABOUT PHASE ONE GUIDELINES?

If there is anything that was in Phase One guidelines that was not addressed in Phase Two above, that means that those Phase One guidelines are still in effect. If you have any doubt about what is or is not allowed, please email me and ask your question. I will get back with you as quickly as possible.

TODAY Bishop Brewer is also sending out an email about Emergency Disaster Relief for our companion Diocese of Honduras. This will be sent to all on CFCLERIC and AMBO


THESE NEED A NEW HOME

Brian Turner at Church of the Blessed Redeemer in Palm Bay has been cleaning and clearing of closets and sheds this past week at Blessed Redeemer and have some items that we're not using which may be of interest to another church in the Diocese. I realize that some of these items may have been gifts from other churches to ours, but we don't seem to have a use for them here. I'll list the items below and include some photos. If you want any of these- Contact Brian!

1. 50 red "Songs of Praise: Combined Edition" hymnals (ISBN 0-89283-172-3)
2. 70 navy blue "Gather: Second Edition" hymnals (ISBN 0-941050-57-2)
3. a Gulbransen Digital Hymnal (model DH-100)
4. a wooden tract rack, dimensions 20" wide, 26" tall, 2.5" deep



Learnings from others who opened for in-person worship

- If you are using pre-intincted wafers leave some plain for those who are in recovery or those who skip the chalice- Becky Toalster
- when you go live on FB, be sure it's on the church's page and not on your personal page!  Also, to get around the "you must have 1,000 subscribers" rule to go live on YouTube, we used the app Streamlabs as a work around which worked well for us. Becky Toalster
- Leave room for visitors. If you fill up all 50 seats, there is not room for visitors- Trey Garland
- David Peoples used Sign Up Genius and it worked well to spread things out and try to limit the number of people in any one service
- Have extra volunteers who sign up to help coordinate the clean-up and helping with social distancing- some who signed up did not show up!
- Disposable gloves for the celebrant- make sure you try them on before the service. I did not and they did not fit. Try to find powdered gloves – they are easier to put on
- Dismissing people by rows for Exiting from the back of the church worked well to keep from people clumping together
- We received standing in two stations on either side of the church. Social distancing was maintained except for when standing in line waiting. The ushers could help spread folks out by not letting so many come up at each time.
- Having an area set aside for those unable or unwilling to wear masks worked well as opposed to arguing with those who would not wear one.

ONLINE EDUCATION: Planning for your Future Congregation

The Reverend Doctor Kevin Martin will be offering a four-week course on the keys for assessing the future potential of your congregation. As all Churches reset to the new normal of congregational life and assess the changes that the Coronavirus brought to our communities, this is an opportune moment to look ahead to the building of the future and giving serious assessment to your Church's potential growth and newcomer ministry. The title of the Course is:

Assessing the Growth Potential of your Congregation: A Consultant's Viewpoint

Dean Kevin will be using the tools and experience that he has gained from 30 years of working with all sizes of Churches in development and growth. ***"I learned from my mentor, Lyle Schaller, that there are four key ingredients that interact with each other and predict the future potential for growth of a congregation.*** Year after year, I have seen these put to advantage in congregations or, left unattended, they function as points of resistance and decline. The good news is that leaders, ordained and lay, can learn the skills necessary to overcome obstacles and plan for a better future."

This class is open to clergy of any size congregation who want to learn more about these dynamics and how they can be more effective leaders of their congregations for the future.

*The class will be held for one hour on Zoom.

*Prior to each week's class, clergy will receive resources for that week

*After each class, there will be an assessment assignment for each participant to begin to apply this material.

* Each clergy leader will have individual access to consultation with Dean Kevin

*This consultation process with Dean Kevin will extend for 6 months beyond the class.

If you are interested in the course that meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00, please email him directly at: canonkevin@sbcglobal.net

Just a reminder... Bishop Brewer sent this out yesterday...

A WALK OF MOURNING AND RESTORATION

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am asking you to join me in a time of public prayer for our communities. **The walk begins at 9:00am on Friday June 5th.** It starts at Camping World Stadium proceeding down Church Street to Division Avenue. Notice that we are asked to wear black as a sign of mourning. I will be wearing a black cassock. If you have a black cassock, please wear it. The organizer, Pastor Tim Johnson, is a trusted Christian leader in Orlando. I have spoken with him and prayed with him many times.

The prayer walk starts at 9:00, so get there earlier than that to get parked and gather so that, if possible, you can be there from the very beginning. I apologize for the late notice. Though I knew this was in the works, the electronic flyer was not published until last night.

Attached is the flyer for "A Walk of Mourning and Restoration" hosted by Pastor Tim Johnson (Orlando World Outreach). For questions about the event, please contact karrah.johnson@orlandowoc.org.

If you cannot attend, I would still urge you to make this coming Friday a time of prayer and fasting for our nation.

Peace and Mercy, +Greg Brewer

