

Westwood Baptist Church – COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan Update September, 2020

The Westwood Baptist Church Reopening Workgroup, convened by our Pastor, has worked on a re-opening plan that addresses the health, safety, and well-being of our members and the surrounding community. The plan is based on local health data, risk management, disciples' comfort levels, and feasibility; and, is being implemented with guidance from our Pastor and in collaboration with the appropriate ministries and resources.

What has been done to date?

Since March, Our essential church services, prayer call, bible study, and young member services have been offered virtually and via dial-in. The church has approved the installation of equipment to offer enhanced live streaming services. Procurement is underway. This major enhancement is named the Dolson B. Anderson Jr. Media Ministry.

A survey of our members has been conducted to determine preferences on how to best to move forward with church re-opening.

An assessment of our church facilities has been conducted to determine the feasibility and resources required to reopen safely with appropriate safeguards for our members. Where identified, the cost of necessary protective equipment, cleaning and sanitizing materials, and signage, has been determined and purchases have been made and are ongoing.

Currently, only the church office is open for operation with limited access, with notification, for essential staff and personnel.

What to expect going forward:

Our worship services, prayer call, bible study, and young member services will continue to be held virtually and via call-in for the for-seeable future. We expect live-streaming services should be offered in the beginning of the year.

The WBC re-opening workgroup will continue to assess local health data, State and National re-opening guidelines, and the accommodation of our members to determine the timing and means by which we will return to in-church services and activities. Given what we know about the COVID 19 pandemic and its' local impact, these decisions will be made thoughtfully and communicated with periodic updates to our members.

We are looking at the feasibility of an outside gathering on church grounds and surroundings to address the expressed desire of our some of our members to see each other in fellowship. The deliberations for the event will be based on assuring the safety

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of all who participate by wearing masks, social distancing, and mandated hygiene practices. Detail on this event is forthcoming.

Important COVID-19 Information

WBC wants its members to remain healthy and safe as we live through this COVID-19 pandemic. The following is a link to basic information from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/VDH-What-you-need-to-know-Flyer-ENG.pdf> that we all need to know.

Workgroup voted affirmative to have a WBC Gathering Sunday Oct. 17, 2020 on the Church property. Mask and social distancing will be required with the option of remaining in vehicles and designated seating outside on the church property for members who bring their own chairs.