

Grace Commons REGATHERING STAGES

**Stages, group sizes, cleaning and sanitation practices
will be informed by the CDC, local health officials and the Governor's guidelines.**

	STAGE 1 <i>Stay at Home</i>	STAGE 2 <i>Safer at Home</i>	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5 <i>Return to New Normal</i>
WORSHIP	Online worship.	Online worship.	Online Worship. Hosting worship at home encouraged.	Online worship. Hosting worship at home encouraged. In person worship by reservation.	Online worship. Resume normal worship routines <i>(new seating and health practices may be required).</i>
MINISTRY <i>All gatherings follow safety standards set by CDC and local authorities.</i>	Online offerings for most programs.	Online offerings. Mercy Ministries resume outdoors as an essential service. Porch or park visits in person may resume.	Online offerings. Small groups may resume where safe. Outdoor ministry gatherings encouraged.	Online offerings. Midsize gatherings and classes may resume. Mercy Ministries/ essential services may move indoors.	Online offerings. All age and stage ministries may resume.
FACILITY USE & AVAILABILITY <i>Health screening, group size, and cleaning practices will be followed as determined by authorities.</i>	Building closed. No in-person gatherings.	Building closed to public use. No indoor programming. Some leadership teams allowed to work on site.	Building closed to public use. Staff and small group gatherings are permitted. Reservations for onsite gatherings are required.	Building is open with restrictions. Number of groups and total number of people on site will be limited. Church programming resumes indoors per regulations.	Building open to public use. Resume pre-COVID practices, with new skills, efficiencies and standards in place.

Grace Commons VALUES FOR REGATHERING

Incarnational Worship: Scripture calls us to love and worship God with our whole selves, including our bodies (Lk 10:27a; Rom 12:1). This involves physical movement, greeting, singing, reciting, praying, and other tangible expressions of our worship, physically and materially. Corporate worship invites freedom and opportunity for these actions. When certain restrictions (numbers, masks, social distancing, screenings, etc) impede this freedom of expression, much is compromised.

Love for Neighbor: Love of neighbor is paramount in the Bible (Lk 10:27b). The way we love, welcome and provide for the health and safety of our neighbors, both inside and outside the congregation, demonstrates our love for God and for them. Our regathering policies are guided by this core value. A safe, clean environment, ease of access, crowd control, and offering general comfort of mind, body, and soul are tangible ways we express our love for our neighbors. Regathering must take into consideration all of these.

Warm Hospitality: In the Bible warm hospitality witnesses to the love of God and neighbor and is a central command (Rom 12:13; Heb 13:2; 1Pet 4:9). We want our worship gatherings to reflect Christian hospitality in ease of access, freedom of movement, and joy of welcome, conversation, food and refreshments. Strict restrictions on these diminish and distract us from this central calling.

Respect for Governing Authorities: As much as possible, we are commanded to love and respect the governing authorities (John 19:11; Rom 13:1). Our witness to our community is strengthened as we support and express the governmental guidelines for safe gatherings. Testing or pushing limitations serves no one well.

Faithful Stewardship of Resources: God has entrusted us to use his resources wisely and faithfully (Gen 2:15; Acts 6:1-6; Mt 25:14-30). We want our facilities and their cleanliness, our greeters and ushers, our custodial staff and volunteers, our music and worship staff, preachers and worship leaders to be able to work within their means in a sustainable way to support and enhance our corporate worship.