



Outer Banks Presbyterian Church Fourth Covid-19 Directive

(Approved by Session on April 29, 2020)

The Session of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church has previously adopted directives for facility use and worship services on March 13, March 20, and March 31, in response to the Covid-19 virus and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the State of North Carolina, and Dare County.

The church facility has been closed to all tenant groups, as well as church-related groups since the Session's initial action. Our church staff has been able to enter the church, provided they practiced social distancing recommended by the CDC. Staff has been encouraged to work from home as much as possible. Since closure, Rev. Dr. Jody Moore has provided mid-week devotionals and announcements through an emailed newsletter to all members with email addresses. Dr. Moore has further recorded and live-streamed his weekly sermons, including Sundays prior to Holy Week, Maundy Thursday (which included Communion), Easter Sunday, and all Sundays thereafter. On April 6, 2020, the Finance Committee submitted a Paycheck Protection Program application to the US Small Business Administration through Towne Bank, receiving \$36,900, which is enabling the church to keep all personnel on payroll and not interrupt their employment.

The Covid-19 Task Force, appointed by Dr. Moore, composed of Nonie Booth, Judy Whittle, Jody Moore, and Gary McGee met electronically on April 25, 2020 and considered the following current information:

- * North Carolina's "Stay at Home" order by Governor Cooper has been extended to May 8, although citizens can go to grocery stores, pharmacies, and the like for essential services. NC public schools are closed for the rest of the school year.
- * Gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited by both North Carolina and Dare County.
- *Dare County "Stay at Home, Stay Healthy" order has been extended to May 22.
- *Dare County now requires face masks or coverings to be worn in all public places.
- *The Governor's order of April 23, 2020 states that places of worship may begin to re-open two to three weeks after May 8, provided social distancing requirements are met and face masks or coverings are worn. Therefore, it appears that May 22 could be the earliest date the church could re-open on a new normal basis. Dr. Moore is researching how other churches are re-opening in stages and will present and discuss those recommendations with the Task Force and the Session.

Based on this information, the Covid-19 Task Force recommends that the Session extend its existing directives for church facility usage, office practices, electronic communications with the Congregation and live-streamed, recorded Worship Services through May 22, 2020. Further, the

Session authorizes Rev. Dr. Moore to provide virtual Holy Communion Services on first Sundays of each month as long as the restrictions regarding Covid-19 remain in place.

The Session also authorizes Elders on an individual optional basis to provide in-home Communion for members, who provide their own bread and wine/grape juice, and who have indicated a desire to receive Communion at their homes, provided the Elders honor social distancing and wear face coverings or masks while visiting.

The Session agreed for the family of Judy Dempsey to place her ashes in the Bible Garden at an arranged time when Covid-19 restrictions allow. The family has asked to place Judy's ashes during Memorial Day weekend or later. Judy's husband's and daughter's ashes are already in the Bible Garden.

The task force will continue to monitor orders by the State and Dare County and will recommend any appropriate modifications to the Session.