



COVENANT FOR THE PHASED REOPENING OF CHURCHES WITHIN THE DIOCESE

CHURCH NAME: _____ **CITY/TOWN NAME:** _____

We, the elected or appointed leaders of our church, together with our rector or vicar, if there be one, have read and discussed carefully the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Guidelines regarding the phased reopening of churches and church offices within the Diocese.

We understand that the duration and spread of COVID-19 is still not fully known, and that it is possible that the reopening of our church may be delayed or halted by a resurgence in confirmed cases. We further understand that we cannot eliminate risk when we reopen our church, but must seek to minimize that risk as much as possible.

We agree to abide by the Guidelines and to implement their requirements for the benefit of our congregation and our local community.

As part of our implementation of the Diocesan Guidelines, we will:

- continue to monitor pandemic updates closely and seek the guidance of public health and medical professionals in our community
- develop written protocols for phasing in in-person worship and, the reopening of our church office, if applicable
- determine “maximum occupancy” for worship services
- arrange thorough cleanings of church spaces by volunteers or staff **before** and **af er** worship services
- communicate the diocesan Guidelines and our own church protocols to all parishioners before reopening and make printed copies of Guidelines and church protocols available on site
- communicate regularly the ongoing risks of COVID-19, particularly to older members and to those with pre-existing medical conditions
- communicate the importance of staying home when sick or not feeling well to all church members and staff
- offer recorded or live-streamed options for worship services and formation, for persons who should, or choose to, stay home; if your congregation is unable to host online services, contact communications@dwtx.org for assistance.

We understand that permission to begin in-person worship during Phase 2 does not allow for further easing of the Guidelines until the Bishop determines that the Diocese can proceed to the next phase.

We agree to contact the Bishop’s office without hesitation should questions or issues arise regarding the Guidelines or our local Church protocols.

Signature of Rector/Vicar/Priest-in-Charge

Signature of Vestry/Bishop’s Committee Officer

Printed Name & Title

Printed Name & Title

Approved on _____ (date) at a meeting of the Vestry/Bishop’s Committee.

Send completed and signed form to the Rev. Mike Besson, Archdeacon, at mike.besson@dwtx.org.