



Policy for Resuming Life Group Activity at St. John's

June 1, 2020

"O church, arise and put your armor on; Hear the call of Christ our captain..."

Introduction and Overview

March and April of 2020 saw massive restrictions and shutdowns on all levels of society in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. All of St. John's life groups were impacted. As of May 2020, there has been a national call to restore operational functionality to those organizations and persons affected by the shutdown. As restrictions ease around the nation, counties, businesses, churches, and individuals must all consider how to resume operations within our new context of recovery and rebuilding.

St. John's has already begun the process of returning to regular operations, chiefly visible in worship and staffing initiatives. In this time of recovery, we seek to restore functionality across *all* areas of ministry at St. John's through coordination with our many faithful, passionate lay leaders and their life groups.

Procedure

The Management Team will work within their areas of oversight to encourage lay leaders and their life groups to resume operations on a case-by-case basis. Our goal is that by September 2020, most, if not all, of St. John's Life Groups will have resumed normal operations in a safe and effective way.

St. John's life groups are rich and varied, and as we seek to "equip the saints" (Eph. 4:12), the Management Team will leave specific decision making for dates, times, and special procedures to the discretion of each life group within its own structures, with the overall goal in mind.

Management Team members will evaluate progress and provide support as we seek to once again carry out our ministries, that as each area of ministry is working properly, the Body of Christ may continue to build itself up in love (Eph. 4:16).

A Note for the Future

This crisis will have a profound impact on society that will not be understood for some time. The needs of people and the community around us have changed and will change. Our goal to restore ministry is not to "do it like we've always done it," but to gather our life groups and seek how best to serve.

Some life groups may not wish to gather for the same purpose, and may disband or reform their purpose. New life groups will grow. This will be a painful time for some, and joyful one for others, but all life groups serve an important purpose: a purpose which finds its meaning in our God.

We remember the words of Paul: "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Cor. 3:7).

May God grow this church body mightily. Amen.