

June 30, 2021

Dear friends,

We are happy that BC COVID-19 cases are successfully coming down and death rate the lowest. With the focus now more on successful vaccination (the highest rate of vaccination in the world), Dr. Bonnie Henry announced the uplift of all restrictions for religious worship. Given the provision of indoor worship without pandemic restrictions, we still proceed with caution. This is what I proposed to the pastoral team primarily for the July 4 Sunday, and then we can review immediately for anything we need to deal with.

1. The English service remains mostly the same at 9:00 am since the congregation size is around 50+ but average attendance is 40 or less.
2. For the Chinese services, since we now have no restrictions in number of attendees, we do not see the need for two services. (We will look into how to run the Mandarin service on the third week of every month.) Therefore beginning on July 4, we will hold ONE Chinese service at 11:00 a.m. This will enable us to focus manpower and resources on outreach evangelism. And we will do HC service throughout July. The purpose is to rebuild the Chinese congregation back in close fellowship and unity through HC.
3. With no restrictions in numbers and no requirement of contact records, congregants no longer need to pre-register to attend our worship services. However, if you display any symptoms of sickness or do not feel well, please stay home to join our services online.
4. The administration of HC will be the same as in pandemic phase. No change until Health Authority moves to Restart Step 4, i.e. Sept 7. That is to say, using small cups, and partaking bread and wine at your seat. The traffic movement of taking Communion directed by R&V team will be the same. The celebrant still needs to put on a mask.

5. Congregants are required to put on masks throughout the service, and no touch in passing the peace until we are into Restart Step 4. The only change will be not mandatory to keep 6 feet social distance. You should stay together with your household, and sit with further spacing from your next congregants. In all medical researches, wearing masks helps lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission more effectively than other measures. Therefore, although the Health Authority no longer make masks mandatory, we request you to continue wearing a mask.
6. Choir and praise teams are welcome back. Choir will still sing on the piano side, with or without masks. (Check with your Music Director.) Praise teams can come up to the sanctuary stage, with or without masks.
7. We will have 3 hymns/songs for each Chinese service. HC aims at 1 hr 15 mins. Liturgy is still projected on screen. So, no prayer book or song book yet. Put offering into the offering box before coming in or leaving after service. The same practice, no change.
8. In BC's Restart Step 3, we will still have livestream services, and when we come to Step 4 we will review whether we still need livestream.
9. We are allowed to talk to each other before or after the service socially. Enjoy our fellowship.
10. I will discuss with Rev. Paul Shen in more details concerning the Mandarin service.

We thank God that we are now able to resume what we love to do in worship. Assemble the congregants back and give thanks to our God in singing. So, come and celebrate, give thanks to our God who protects and saves us in his salvation.

Blessings.

+Stephen