



Dear EPC Family and Friends ~

Session met for our regular stated meeting on Monday, June 14, giving thanks to God that while we are not quite clear of the pandemic yet, circumstances are much *much* better than they were when we enacted our first *Measures of Care* in March 2020. Given the decline in active COVID-19 cases and the rising number of vaccinations in Lyon County, Session voted to ease many of the *Measures of Care* currently in place, effective Sunday, June 20, 2021, as outlined below. Further, Session voted to work toward the goal of returning to the Downtown sanctuary on Sunday, August 15, should current trends continue. Session will revisit this goal at our next stated meeting on Monday, August 9, and communicate firm plans with our church family as quickly as possible.

***For the remainder of the summer – June 20 - August 8, 2021 – we will worship indoors at West Campus beginning at 9:30am***, gradually adding in elements of the worship service that have been missing while we followed a “short form” order of service. ***Online worship will continue*** with video links available via email, the EPC website, and the EPC Facebook page. Remaining at West for the duration of the summer serves two primary functions: it allows us to do intentional transition work shifting from our current worship practices early, short form, at West to our goal of worship at 10:45am, longer form, Downtown; and it enables us to ready the Downtown sanctuary for our anticipated return mid-August. Contact Ken Weaver (Worship Committee) or Amanda Gutierrez (Property Committee) to see how you can help our church family with this transition.

Session is also excited to welcome back EPC committees, small groups, and community partners to both campuses. We do ask that the updated *Measures of Care* below continue to be followed by all who join us for worship, work, fellowship, community outreach, and play at both campuses. Of particular note, **we ask that masks continue to be worn in Sunday worship** and at any function where children under 12 are present. While many in our church family are now fully vaccinated and can safely gather together unmasked, vaccines are currently unavailable to our youngest members. To ensure the welcome and safety of our entire church family, Session asks that we all continue to mask around our youngest members and pray that child-safe COVID-19 vaccines are available soon.

---

### **Updated *Measures of Care***

**Please stay home and worship online if you are not feeling well**, including (but not limited to) fever, low-grade fever, cough, sneezing, respiratory / flu-like symptoms.

#### Building Norms / Care of God’s House:

- **Masks are to be worn at any function where children under 12 are present.**
- 6’ social distancing will be practiced.
- The nursery is closed.
- Restrooms and elevators are open.

Worship Norms / Care for the Congregation:

- Bulletins will be provided.
- Responsive readings will occur.
- Congregational singing will not occur.
- Wave at or bow to neighbors to Pass the Peace.
- Offering plates are stationed by the doors.
- Communion elements will be individually packaged and available before worship or you may bring your own on communion Sundays.
- Online worship will continue in addition to in-person worship.

Personal Norms / Care for our Neighbors:

- Online worship will continue in addition to in-person worship.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- Worship online if you or a member of your household does not feel well.
- Extend grace and empathy to all and to self.

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” ~Matthew 25:40*

*Thank you for taking care of our church family and our community in God’s name.*

---

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Session elders or Pastor Phyl with questions, concerns, or needs.

*Yours in Christ,  
Emporia Presbyterian Church Session*