



Friends,

The following is a working four-stage plan for moving forward in light of the continuing challenges created by the highly contagious nature of the Covid-19 virus. In it we are attempting to balance faith and caution. Although the State of Kansas is permitting churches to resume worship (as long as they strictly adhere to CDC standards), we feel that the following plan helps us to move forward in ways that not only protect the vulnerable in our own congregation, but also help us to show love to our neighbor by limiting the risk of virus spread and causing a further surge to put others at risk.

We recognize the plan is limiting in many ways. However, our hope is that, in this time, the Spirit will continue to give us creative ways to stay connected, minister to one another, and reach out to our neighbors in need. It is our hope that when these challenging days are past, that we collectively look back with gratitude that we are able to be together again (“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD’”) but also thankful for the ways this time formed us and sparked new patterns of obedience within us.

The following plan is specific to the SCNaz context, but it also tries to find as much kinship and connection as possible with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Smith County. The following plan also closely follows the recommendations and advice offered by general and district denominational leadership.

The 1st and 2nd phase of the following plan was approved by the SCNaz Church Board on May 4. Phases 3 and 4 are very tentative and can help areas of ministry plan for the future. However, we will continue to pay attention to the status of the virus in the community and the ever-changing recommendations of the State of Kansas and adjust our plans either forward or backward depending on how things develop. It is our intention to finalize the other phases of the plan on the following dates:

- Phases 1-2 May 4
- Phase 3 - May 26
- Phase 4 - June 15

In All Stages SCNaz Family and Friends Should:

- Engage in social distancing
- Stay home if not feeling well
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Cover coughs and sneezes

In All Stages SCNaz Leaders and Volunteers Will:

- Encourage social distancing
- Ensure frequent cleaning and disinfection of the church building

**Phase 1: May 4-18
(Sundays 5/10; 5/17)**

Key “ReOpen” Policies from the CDC and the State of Kansas:

- Self-Quarantine of Vulnerable Population
- Public and Private Gatherings Should be Avoided
- Large Venues Remain Closed

SCNaz Phase One Response:

1. ***Continue on-line worship services***
2. ***All on-site age-group ministry gatherings and activities suspended.***
3. ***Offer on-line midweek Bible study and age-group/family materials***
4. ***Encourage Sunday school classes to interact electronically***
5. ***Offer "Geek-Squad" assistance for those who have not been able to connect or who need technical assistance***

**Phase 2: May 18 - June 1
(Sundays 5/24; 5/31)**

Key “ReOpen” Policies from the CDC and the State of Kansas:

- Self-Quarantine of Vulnerable Population
- Public and Private Gatherings of 30 Permitted
- Large Venues Remain Closed

SCNaz Phase Two Response:

1. *Continue on-line worship services, possibly with the worship team. (And an invitation to the few who do not have internet to watch in person)*
2. *All on-site age-group ministry gatherings and activities continue suspension*
3. *Offer on-line midweek Bible study and age-group/family materials*
4. *Encourage or create watch parties for small groups or portions of SS classes*

**Phase 3: June 1- 15
(Sundays 6/7; 6/14)**

Key “ReOpen” Policies from the CDC and the State of Kansas:

- Public and Private Gatherings of 50 Permitted
- Self-Quarantine of the Ill
- No Travel Restrictions
- Large Venues Remain Closed

SCNaz Phase Three Response:

1. *Offer opportunity for limited numbers to participate in public worship in “distanced” spaces while continuing on-line worship services – or Two/Three Services from Sanctuary (early/late to allow time to do some cleaning in between) with limited capacity and marked off seating*
2. *Plan an “outdoor” evening worship opportunity (perhaps on Pentecost Sunday)*
3. *Limited socially-distanced worship possible – No Nursery*
4. *Midweek classes, prayer groups, and small groups may meet*

**Phase 4: June 16-29
(Sundays 6/21; 6/28)**

Key “ReOpen” Policies from the CDC and the State of Kansas:

- Public and Private Gatherings of over 50 Permitted (with social distancing)
- Self-Quarantine of the Ill
- Large Venues Open

SCNaz Phase Four Response:

1. *Service(s) from Sanctuary (early/late to allow time to do some cleaning in between) with limited capacity and marked off seating*
2. *No congregational greeting time, no passing of the offering plates, no worship folders, limited greeting, and other forms of “touch” in worship avoided*
3. *Continue to broadcast service online*
4. *All other Activities and Meetings Resume while providing for social distancing.*