

Beloved in Christ,

As we continue to adjust to our this reality, find in this document a plan that frames ECMN's approach to moving through the pandemic and beyond. In the months to come, our life together will be characterized by four seasons, which we might think about as: blizzard, long winter, spring, and summer growth. Specific public health benchmarks and faith community guidelines for each season are outlined in this document. This plan has been developed considering regular conversations with the Presiding Bishop's office, the House of Bishops, and other church leaders. I believe it reflects the emerging common wisdom about the best path forward.

I acknowledge that the specific guidelines and timing for each season will remain fluid. I will continue to be in frequent contact with updates and changes to these plans as the pandemic progresses.

I am so deeply grateful for the faithfulness, courage, and resilience with which all of you continue to nourish and care for Christ's people in this time. It is an extraordinary privilege to share this with you, and you remain constantly in my prayers.



**The Right Reverend Craig Loya**

X Bishop, Episcopal Church in Minnesota

### **About These Guidelines**

Bishop Loya is in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health via a judicatory leader group, with a group of ECMN leaders, and with The Episcopal Church. Wisdom, perspective, and recommendations from all of these groups inform ECMN guidelines and planning.

These guidelines are based on measurable benchmarks tracked by the state. There will be several phases of opening when specific metrics have been met or are present, and there will be some nuance in how these numbers affect faith community operations based on the geography, membership, building size, and population of each specific faith community.

Much of the ministry-specific decision-making will be up to faith community leadership. This can be tough, we know, but ECMN will be providing data, tools, and resources to help you make decisions ministry by ministry, and your Bishop, Missioners, and the Building Use Task Force are available to help answer questions, think through the decisions that will be right for you in your ministry context, and help plan for specific ministries.

**As we enter into each phase, you can expect your Bishop, Missioners, and Building Use Task Force to provide:**

- Clear guidelines about gatherings and safety and cleaning protocols.
- Resources to help you determine if a ministry should open in this phase and to create a plan for these ministries based on current safety protocols.
- Zoom meetings to collaboratively create plans and share creative ideas.
- Opportunities to meet 1-1 with the Bishop, missionaries, and/or Building Use Task Force to review plans, answer questions, and strategize collaboratively.

It will not be a requirement that a formal plan is submitted to the office of the Bishop before opening a ministry, provided that the operation of that ministry complies with all recommended guidelines and best practices. However, it is the expectation of your Bishop that each faith community will keep him and the Missioners abreast of their plans and needs, and will make all decisions guided by Jesus’ example of sacrificial love and care for those most vulnerable.

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**Definition of Terms**

In order to ensure an abundance of clarity, here is how we’re using and understanding the following terms.

**Phase:** This term refers to the level of restriction that we are currently exercising given the current infection rate and governmental protocols in place.

**Health Characteristics:** These are the Minnesota-specific health and safety metrics that dictate which phase we are in.

**Faith Community Guidelines:** these are directives, given to you by your Bishop, that must be followed during this phase.

**Actions/Questions to Consider as we prepare for the next season:** these are questions that can and should be engaged by faith community leaders in order to prepare for the phase to come.

## Phase 1: Blizzard

A blizzard involves a temporary and nearly complete shutdown. We enter Phase 1 when the Governor puts in place an order calling Minnesotans to Stay at Home.

### *Health Characteristics*

- Virus is continuing to spread at increasing rates in many communities
- Governor's Stay-at-Home order is still in place
- No vaccine or treatment available
- Lack of protective supplies for public
- Current hospital capacity unable to meet demand

### *Faith Community Guidelines*

- Offer virtual worship
- Provide pastoral care virtually
- Postpone weddings, funerals, and other celebrations
- Buildings are closed to everyone

## Phase 1.5: the Blizzard, after the plows come through

After the Stay-at-Home order has been lifted, but before we have entered into Phase 2, if safety precautions are followed, the following is permitted for faith communities.

### *Health Characteristics*

- Governor has lifted Stay-at-Home orders
- Gatherings of 10 or less are permitted
- Communities still experiencing widespread and increasing infection rates

### *Faith Community Guidelines*

- Groups of 10 or fewer individuals may return to faith community buildings to film or live-stream services, as long as appropriate physical distancing is maintained.

- Weddings and funerals that cannot be postponed may take place, as long as they are gatherings of 10 people or less and follow the physical distancing and the wearing of masks.
- Those who are sick, those who have underlying health conditions, and those who are over the age of 65 should not re-gather in any form or fashion during this phase.
- During Phase 1.5 the Office of the Bishop and Missioners will still remain closed, and 1101 W Broadway will still not host events or gatherings of any size. We are advising that Church offices, during this phase, do the same. Missioners and the Bishop will be in the office minimally to complete essential business as needed. An office calendar tracking visits will be used for contact tracing purposes if someone becomes sick.
- All other groups and gatherings continue to be suspended until further notice.
- Faith Communities may gather outdoors, provided they follow safety precautions outlined in [Appendix I](#).

During this phase, we will continue to learn together about the best practices for sustaining our life of common prayer. Look for further reflections, guidelines, and opportunities to reflect on best practices in the weeks to come.

## Phase 2: Long Winter

Winter involves adapting to a new way of living over an extended period of time. This involves the initial stages of returning to our buildings and to physical gatherings, but will look very different than the ways we gathered before the pandemic.

### *Health Characteristics*

- Sustained reduction in cases for 14 days
- Hospital capacity is adequate to treat all patients requiring inpatient care
- Increased testing for COVID-19
- Ability to conduct contact tracing for new cases
- Governmental agencies continuing to provide specific oversight and guidance
- Authorization from the Governor's office to re-gather in faith communities

### *Faith Community Guidelines*

- Clergy and lay employees may return to offices, following physical distancing guidelines.
- Employees may continue to work from home if they choose of if they need to.
- Worship
  - Smaller congregations might be able to gather for worship if their space allows for strict physical distancing, and as long as CDC guidelines and all sanitation protocols are in place and followed.

- Funerals, weddings, and similar gatherings may resume in accordance with current health and safety guidelines (i.e. size of gathering, physical distancing, wearing masks).
- As this time continues, scalable worship, of 10, 50, 100 - may begin. Initially, Morning Prayer/Ante Communion/Spiritual Communion will continue to be the standard Sunday liturgy.
  - As time continues, we will work to resume regular celebrations of Holy Eucharist with modifications in how it is administered. More guidance on what will be permissible will be released as we enter this phase.
  - No physical contact between people who are not living together is allowed, including during the passing of the peace.
  - No passing of the collection plates is allowed (consider placing a secure box at the doors for offering at in-person gatherings).
  - ECMN-wide and faith community-specific meetings continue to be offered online as much as possible, and in accordance with health guidelines.
  - Choirs and congregational singing will be limited during this season.
- In-person pastoral visits may resume to low risk parishioners as needed. More guidance outlining specific best practices for these visits will be released as we enter this phase.
- Larger gatherings will still be conducted virtually.
- As this time continues, some outside groups may be able to return to our buildings, as long as the space allows for strict physical distancing, and as long as CDC guidelines, and all sanitation protocols are in place and followed.

**Any outbreaks of the virus might mean returning to Phase I protocols.**

The long winter may last for many months. The John Hopkins Center for Health Security advises that we "recognize that the desire to get back to normal as quickly as possible is a common reaction in the catastrophic context, and it is an impulse worth restraining."

## Phase 3: Spring

We do not expect Phase 3 to emerge for some time. According to many experts, this might be as long as twelve to eighteen months away.

### *Health characteristics*

- Negative community spread
- Mass vaccination
- Mass testing for virus and immunity
- Lifting of physical distancing

### *Faith Community Guidelines*

- Offices are fully open
- Worship in congregations
  - Continue to provide virtual options
  - Continue to provide virtual meeting options
  - Holy Eucharist is offered
- Resume outreach ministries
- Continue formation programs
- ECMN meetings resume in person, but continue to provide virtual options

## **Phase 4: Summer growth and transformation**

As we emerge into something that we recognize as “normal,” we will want to continue to reflect on what we have learned together about ways the church can continue to adapt our common life to best engage God’s mission in a changing world going forward. Additionally, it will be important to reflect on ways we can be prepared should another pandemic emerge sometime in the future.

## Appendix A

### Questions for Faith Community Leadership

These questions can and should be asked in Phases 2 and again in 3. While the guidelines and restrictions will be different, these questions are intended to promote thorough and thoughtful planning.

#### Planning for All

- What are the demographics of your faith community?
  - How might your plan be shaped by the health risks to specific groups?
- How can you continue to offer online services and gatherings for those who are most vulnerable and will still not be able to gather physically?
- How can you help people make choices about when to stay home?
- How can you continue to reach out and support those who must continue sheltering in place, beyond worship services?

#### Worship & In Person Gatherings

- How can you arrange your worship space to allow for in-person gatherings with appropriate physical distancing?
- If individuals must remain 6 feet apart, what is the new capacity of your worship space? How can you prevent bottleneck areas? Could one-way routes into and out of gathering spaces be implemented?
- What does hospitality look like in this phase?
  - How might you greet and welcome while maintaining physical distancing?
  - How might you make sure that those gathering understand the health and safety protocols and expectations?
  - Will you or can you offer any form of refreshments while considering health and safety?
  - How might you pass the peace while observing physical distancing?
  - How will you manage the flow of people before and after a gathering to ensure physical distancing and limit small group gatherings?
- How will you arrange for regular deep cleaning between in person gatherings?
  - Consider using bulletins instead of hymnals and prayer books.
  - Plan to clean before, during and after services and small group gatherings (doorknobs, bathrooms, pews, chairs, etc.)
  - Plan to clean nurseries, classrooms, and any outdoor spaces that may be used.
- Because we may have to return to smaller gatherings or no gatherings, how might your faith community prepare?
  - Will you offer additional Sunday liturgies and break the community up into smaller groups?
  - How might you leave space for those who may be visiting, while not exceeding the recommended number of those gathered?

- How will you communicate any return to a more restricted status?

### **Contact Tracing & Communication**

- If someone who has been in the building or is part of the community tests positive for COVID-19, what will your faith community's response be?
  - How will you communicate this to all those who may have been exposed?
  - How might you balance privacy and pastoral care in this situation?
- How might you communicate safety and health expectations and plans with congregants?

### **Contingency Planning**

- How will you care for those in leadership in the event of increased work, i.e. extra services?
- How might you handle volunteer needs and roles if there is widespread illness?
- What plans might you put in place to ensure that, if there is another outbreak of the virus, your faith community can return to all-online gatherings and meetings?
- What tasks are required for holding worship? How can others be cross-trained for if/when people get sick?

### **Capturing Learning**

- What are you learning about yourselves as leaders and as a faith community that you want to take with you into the next phase?
- How might you take what you've learned about gathering online and offering live-streamed services into the next phase, even as physical restrictions are lifted?



## Appendix B

### Ideas

#### **Limiting Gathering Size**

While gathering sizes are limited, consider creating a sign up, breaking groups up by last name, or creating an online 'ticket' to separate households and ensure the number of individuals in the space at a given time is limited.

#### **Passing the peace**

Consider waving, bowing, crossing your hands over your heart, or versicle and response.

#### **Collecting offering**

Consider placing an offering plate or secure box at the doors to the worship space. Continue to offer online giving if possible. Do not pass a plate or basket during the worship service.

#### **'Fellowship Time'**

Gathering before and after services should be discouraged. You could offer an informal 'fellowship time' online on Sundays for conversation both for those who gathered in person, as well as for those unable to gather in person in this phase. If you do have a fellowship time, do not serve food. If the situation permits, encourage any conversation to occur outside while maintaining physical distancing.

#### **Virtual Worship**

Consider a hybrid model in which services that take place in-person are also live-streamed. In this case, it would be helpful to think about how those engaging online can be participating in the service (i.e. type your greetings at the beginning of the stream, type your response, type your passing of the peace, etc.). Formation, bible study, and small groups could continue to happen in a virtual environment, while a faith community begins offering some in-person worship services and gatherings. Remember, the most vulnerable will need to continue physical distancing, and ensuring that these individuals have equal access to formation, worship and community is essential.

#### **Touchless Worship**

Create a bulletin that contains all the items needed for the worship. Remove the bibles, hymnals, and other commonly touched items throughout the space. Prop open doors and create one-way paths to allow distance. If creating a paper bulletin is too costly, time-consuming, or wasteful, consider projecting worship slides.

#### **Greeter role**

Create a space for the greeter to remain 6 feet from the entryway while still being able to welcome folks. Have the greeter's role be to prop open doors. Have a table near the entry

where the bulletin could be and the greeter reminds people to take one, but does not hand it out.

### **Sanitizing hands/gloves**

Wearing gloves is not encouraged, as they can actually spread the virus from one place to another. Instead, all those who touch common surfaces are advised to wash their hands regularly and should have access to hand sanitizer. Have all clergy wash hands prior to service and use hand sanitizer regularly while officiating a service.

### **Choir**

Since singing can be a significant cause of spread, consider having fewer singers; perhaps a soloist. Singers should be placed farther than six feet from others, as the act of singing spreads aerosols farther than speaking.

### **Contact Tracing**

Determine a way to track who has been in the building and where in the building they went. This will be important if someone becomes sick. You may use an online form for people to sign up with when and where they will be in the building. Be sure to capture emails or phone numbers in case someone becomes sick. Anyone who has been in contact with an infected person will need to be notified.

### **Cleaning protocols**

Create a set of procedures for cleaning trafficked areas after each use. Wipe down surfaces that may have been touched, mop floors, and follow the suggestions from the CDC.

### **High risk members and employees**

There are a number of factors that can put someone in a high risk category. Consider asking high risk individuals, those with underlying health conditions and/or those over 65 years of age to continue to physical distance and provide specific ways for them to participate while mitigating their risk.

## Appendix C

### Should I open this ministry?

*Use this worksheet to help determine if a particular ministry can or should be opened during a given phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**THIS WORKSHEET SHOULD BE USED WHEN ECMN HAS ENTERED INTO PHASE TWO.**

Would an in-person gathering substantially improve an individual's experience of this ministry?

Is it possible for this gathering to be limited to the number of individuals allowed by ECMN and the office of the Governor?

Is it possible to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing between individuals of different households during the course of this ministry?

Will offering this gathering in person mean excluding those who are most vulnerable? Will limiting the number of attendees cause a sense of exclusion that runs counter to the ministry?

Do all those being asked to attend have access to face masks?

Can the church implement a rigorous cleaning protocol before and after this gathering?

If you have answered YES to ALL of the above statements, then you should consider re-opening this ministry to in-person gatherings.

## Appendix D

### Cleaning Best Practices

If you have deemed it appropriate for a ministry to resume in-person gatherings based on the ‘**Should I open this ministry?**’ worksheet, please use this tool to plan how to clean surfaces and areas after use. For more information, please visit the Center for Disease Control page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

#### Cleaning questions to consider in making a plan:

- Who will be in the room and when?
- Can we clean it prior to another group using the space?
- Who is assigned to complete cleaning? Are they, or is anyone they’re in contact with, high-risk?
- What is the process for cleaning?
- Do we have adequate access to CDC-approved cleaning materials?

#### Minnesota Department of Health Guidance

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/clean.html>)

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly spread by respiratory droplets. When someone infected with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes, respiratory droplets that contain the virus are expelled and can be breathed in by someone nearby. Although the virus cannot enter the body through the skin, the respiratory droplets carrying the virus can get into your airways or mucous membranes of your eyes, nose, or mouth to infect you. The virus can also be spread if you touch a surface contaminated with the virus and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth, although this is not the primary way the virus spreads.

#### Guidance for cleaning and disinfecting

Routine cleaning and disinfecting is key to maintaining a safe environment.

- Cleaning removes dirt and most germs and is usually done with soap and water.
- Disinfecting kills most germs, depending on the type of chemical, and only when the chemical product is used as directed on the label.

#### Routine cleaning and disinfecting

- Clean and disinfect at least daily (or more, depending on use patterns) frequently touched surfaces and objects such as:
  - Door knobs and handles
  - Stair rails
  - Classroom desks and chairs
  - Tables and chairs
  - Countertops
  - Handrails

- Light switches
- Handles on equipment
- Push-buttons on vending machines and elevators
- Shared toys
- Shared remote controls
- Shared telephones
- Shared desktops
- Shared computer keyboards and mice

Note; computer keyboards are difficult to clean. Shared computers should have signs posted instructing proper hand hygiene before and after using them to minimize disease transmission. To facilitate cleaning, consider using covers that protect the keys, but enable use of the keys.

It is not necessary to routinely apply disinfectants to surfaces that are not high-touch or high-risk (e.g. floors, bookcases, tops of filing cabinets). Soft surfaces such as carpets, rugs, drapes can be cleaned using soap and water or a cleaner appropriate for the material.

## Appendix E

### Building Use Guidelines

As the Stay-at-Home order is lifted in Minnesota, faith communities who lease or rent their building space should create a plan for how to safely allow people to enter and use their space while considering liability and limits on numbers of those gathered.

During Phase 1.5 the Office of the Bishop and Missioners will still remain closed, and 1101 W Broadway will still not host events or gatherings of any size. We are advising that Church offices, during this phase, do the same.

A Building Use Task Force has been developed in order to provide support for faith communities as they seek to deal with issues specific to their context, and to help provide resources and framing for all faith communities as we move through this pandemic.

More information and examples of best practices will be coming, and will include policies for internal and community use of the ECMN building at 1101 Broadway. Please reach out to your Missioner for Administrator, Ellice Chelgren, with questions at [ellice.c@episcopalmn.org](mailto:ellice.c@episcopalmn.org).

## Appendix F

### Financial Resources

As faith communities plan to live in this current model of gathering and operating for the foreseeable future, please find below resources to support the financial planning and overall health of faith communities.

Representatives of your Trustees and ECMN Council, your ECMN Treasurer, Bishop, and Bishop-elect have been in regular communication as the COVID-19 situation has unfolded. We are looking to and caring for the overall financial health of ECMN, of the Pooled Investment Fund, and of the long-term sustainability of faith communities in light of the economic impact of this pandemic. We have already taken actions and will continue to take actions that ensure that ECMN is sustainable for the long term.

In light of all this, we write to you today to ask you to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or are need of support regarding the following specific items:

- Small Business Association (SBA) Payroll Protection Program Loan application
- SBA Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan relief process
- Recording PPP Loan and tracking related expenses\*
- ECMN's Secretary of State Filing
- ECMN's IRS Group Exemption Letter
- Mission Ministry Support Payments
- Financial Issues

*\*Note: Guidelines around calculation of PPP loan forgiveness continue to evolve, and will hopefully clarify as you work with your respective banks. In the interim, we encourage all faith communities to maintain detailed records, segregated from your other accounting records, regarding funds received and disbursements of anticipated eligible expenses. We will be providing updates as we receive further information.*

Please contact your Missioner for Finance, Jennifer Gamberg at [jennifer.g@episcopalmn.org](mailto:jennifer.g@episcopalmn.org) or 612-870-3308 with any and all questions.

We will walk with each faith community individually, as this situation will impact each one uniquely. Please know that we will do everything we can to support you and your faith communities.

Finance resources, guidance, and links can be found on the ECMN website at <https://episcopalmn.org/cares-act>.

## Appendix G

### Best Practices for Liturgies & Pastoral Care

In Phase 2, ECMN will release guidelines for clergy to utilize in planning for communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Specific guidelines will include what can and cannot be done, the number of people allowed in space, and safety protocols.

During this phase, we will continue to learn together about the best practices for sustaining our life of common prayer. Look for further reflections, guidelines, and opportunities to reflect on best practices in the weeks to come.

In the meantime, please review these policies and recommendations:

#### Pastoral Care for the Sick

- In-person, face-to-face pastoral care is discouraged following the protocols of the MN State Health of Department.
- Connect with the sick by telephone or video.
- Share prayers for use by the sick and their loved ones from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and Enriching Our Worship 2 (EOW2) by email or post.
- For those in hospitals and medical facilities, connect with the chaplains in the facility to ask about how they might provide direct spiritual care. Staff chaplains often carry oil for unction.

#### At the Time of Death

- The Prayers at the Time of Death, BCP p. 462-466 are suitable for lay people to use. Share these with the family member, hospital chaplain, or even a nurse if you can reach them by phone.
- Clergy or pastoral caregivers may offer such prayers over the phone with the receiver at the ear of the patient if allowed. If that is not allowed by the hospital rules, you may pray these prayers on their behalf, with or without the family on the phone.

#### Burial

- A small graveside service may be held to inter the body. Such a service must be outdoors, with no more than 10 people, keeping 6 feet apart, and must be brief.
- Burial rites and memorial gatherings are to be held at an acceptable time after shelter-in-place requirements have ceased.
- Cremains may be kept in the church until burial rites are held IF you receive them while abiding by current infection-prevention guidelines.
- Note: In the scenario in which death rates increase, our funeral homes will be providing a crucial and highly stressful service. They may be at or near their capacity, literally, to



help. Protocols may prohibit the immediate family from having a viewing, for example. This may be profoundly difficult for them to understand. If a parishioner dies, consult with the funeral director about what is and is not possible. You will be a key line of communication with the family and a key provider of pastoral care about what can and cannot happen.

## Appendix H

### Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “How Coronavirus Spreads,” March 4, 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

Governor Walz Executive Orders: <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/execorders/eoresults?gov=all>  
(listed by most recent first)

Guidelines for Opening Up America Again: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security’s Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors:  
[https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs\\_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/reopening-guidance-governors.pdf](https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/reopening-guidance-governors.pdf)

Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 data overview: <https://mn.gov/covid19/>

Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 modeling overview:  
<https://mn.gov/covid19/data/modeling/index.jsp>

Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 modeling 2.0, updated April 28, 2020, presentation:  
[https://mn.gov/covid19/assets/MNmodel\\_PPT\\_FINAL%204.10.20\\_revised%2020200501\\_tcm1148-430665.pdf](https://mn.gov/covid19/assets/MNmodel_PPT_FINAL%204.10.20_revised%2020200501_tcm1148-430665.pdf)

National Coronavirus Response: A Road Map to Reopening:  
<https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/national-coronavirus-response-a-road-map-to-reopening/>

Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors:  
[https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs\\_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf](https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf)

## Appendix I

### Outdoor Gatherings

#### Guidelines

The guidelines for health and safety in an outdoor gathering remain the same as for an indoor gathering, namely:

- Maintaining physical distancing, family units keep 6 feet apart
- Wearing masks
- Still no handshakes, high fives or hugs (waving is cool, so is smiling with your eyes, because, you know, facemasks)
- Provide ways for folks to sanitize hands if it is necessary to touch common surfaces
- Look through and create plans based on the questions and suggestions in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#) of this document.

Here are some planning considerations for outdoor gatherings:

- **Inclement weather:** sheltering inside the church building should not be an option, so have a plan to follow if/when there is inclement weather, particularly if weather turns inclement suddenly.
  - If you opt for something like a tent, make sure that it's open on all sides (because otherwise, it's basically like you're inside).
- **Bathrooms:** think through where folks can use the restroom when needed, and follow cleaning and sanitizing protocols.
- **Seating:** if possible, encourage folks to bring their own seating (this cuts down on commonly touched surfaces, and therefore diminishes risk).
- **Continueonline gatherings:** remember that there are folks who cannot and should not gather in person, so as you may move to gathering in-person, think through how you can include those who cannot gather.
- If there are any commonly used items or spaces, please create a plan for cleaning them based on the guidelines in [Appendix D](#).
- **Sound system support:** being outdoors makes it more difficult to hear, so think about utilizing some sort of sound amplification if needed.
- **Singing:** if there is to be any singing during your gathering, it is recommended that only a soloist sings, and not a group.
- **Printing vs Books:** we recommend that you use print materials for any and all gatherings.
- **Streaming Online:** streaming an outdoor gathering can be difficult - particularly with the signal strength necessary to livestream, and with the difficulty of sound amplification. So have a plan for how to make service available to those who will not be able to attend.