

Hi sisters and brothers in Christ,

How are you all? I think we can finally come up for air?... maybe?

As you know, some businesses and schools are slowly starting to re-open, of course with lots of different ways to keep people safe.

I wonder if wearing a mask will be Forever?

We (Presbytery) had two conference calls last week concerning the church's re-opening. We asked each other, "Are we ready for the new-normal?" Treena Duncan (our Executive Minister) spoke about following the United Church's requirements, as well as we absolutely must follow the Provincial Rules and Regulations for Re-opening.

Do we have a plan in place? Congregations can not have a Board meeting and decide on their own whether their church can open. The first step would be to have this discussion (not even sure when, just yet) with the Pacific Mountain Regional Council, and show them the possible plan. The PMRC agrees with Dr. Bonnie when she strongly suggests no gatherings over 15...with Precautions. Other things to keep in mind are the 'Richmond By-law' office, as well as WorkSafe -who have their own 'rules and regulations.' We would also need to check with our Insurance Broker.

We talked about everything from hand washing, to bulletins, 'security greeters', coffee(No), washrooms, music(Yes, maybe), choirs(No.) The Sacrament of Holy Communion(No), parking-lot worship. Can we "be seated" safely, apart from one another? If there are bulletins we must take them with us when we leave. Through the same door we came in? I mentioned we have several members of our congregation who might like a little physical assistance with walkers, holding an arm, etc every now and then.....that for sure can't happen.

Some churches can be hands-free with screens, etc. We do not have that 'luxury' so we need to find another way to share Sunday worship in this space. If we thought it would help to have audio/visual equipment installed (\$\$), would it help everyone? I don't think so.

A question that made me very uncomfortable was, "Do we even need to meet at all?" (YES! I said to myself, as my heart began to beat a little faster, my hands were suddenly cold) I can honestly say I felt overwhelmed with it all. I've been praying that Steveston United will worship here again. But if not....then what? But then I remembered All-knowing God is holding us. (funny how we forget). That's all the information I have at the moment...so nothing concrete yet.

*"Once our stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."* C.S. Lewis      ...I think of you all every day, blessings, B