



# COVID-19 UPDATE

**ONLINE SERVICES ONLY**

## **United Methodist Church of Merced Reopening Taskforce Update 7/27/2020**

UMCM has had a Safety Committee working diligently in discerning strategy and developing protocol and responding to safety concerns for the church. Their original work included active shooter, medical emergencies, emergency preparedness, and facilities safety.

When COVID 19 entered into our reality, our safety team then also included COVID response. However, over the past several months it became clear we need others to help with the work and to be specific about reopening the church. This is how we created the **Taskforce on Reopening**. The taskforce is: Steve Landis, Denise Rohm, Nadine Weisbrod, Adam Durbin, Kimberly Austin, Nancy Reding, Betty Avery and myself. The Chair of UMCM Leadership Council, Kelly Bentz, is also in consultation.

Our work considers the **Denominational and Annual Conference Guidelines**

<http://calnev-email.brtapp.com/viewemail/2577591>

<https://www.cnumc.org/vimnewsdetail/office-of-disaster-response-ministry-covid-19-13423978>

<https://www.cnumc.org/vimnewsdetail/let-us-take-on-the-responsibility-of-doing-good-in-a-time-of-grave-concern-14119303>

<https://www.cnumc.org/vimnewsdetail/bishop-sip-till-june-13997999>

<https://www.cnumc.org/vimnewsdetail/umc-finds-ways-to-address-virus-concerns-within-the-local-church-13389963>

<https://www.cnumc.org/vimnewsdetail/testing-local-church-re-launch-protocols-1400>

<https://www.cnumc.org/vimnewsdetail/new-local-church-protocols-for-preschools-and-drive-in-church-gatherings-13998000>

<https://www.cnumc.org/vimnewsdetail/jb-webinar-14020940>

## **And State, County and Local guidelines**

<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/3350/Coronavirus-Disease-2019>

<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>

<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf> ) .

To further our work as the UMCM Taskforce we have divided the work into areas of concentration and assigned research, compliance and development of protocol for each area. A written plan of protocol with guidelines is required by both County and Annual Conference before reopening can take place.

### **The areas of concentration are:**

- Preparing the facilities for on-site worship
- Training the team
- From arrival to the parking lot to the front door
- From the Front door, to entrance, and seating
- Worship
- Compliance and protocol for inside the building
- Upon exiting the building to getting back to vehicles
- Supplies
- Communications
- Sanitizing the facilities after worship
- Emergency preparedness

Over the next few weeks, we will be communicating and giving insight into each of the areas of work. You will be updated as to some of the requirements for compliance, how we will respond and how we are preparing to reopen.

**If you would like to offer assistance, have questions, or need information** specific to any of the work areas, please contact the church offices (209) 722-5777 or [pastor@umcmerced.org](mailto:pastor@umcmerced.org) [adam@umcmerced.org](mailto:adam@umcmerced.org). Please subject line: Reopening Taskforce.

**We are eager to get back to worshipping with you** on site at the earliest and safest date. In the meantime, we are diligently continuing the work to be prepared, responsible and extend care.

**We miss each of you and the joy of worshipping in community.** We look forward to completing our tasks.

In the meantime, we pray health and blessing on you and ask your prayers for our guidance, wisdom, success in bringing us back together. Worship with us online at [www.umcmerced.org](http://www.umcmerced.org) worship

**Peace and health to you,**

**Your UMCM Reopening Taskforce:**

Pastor Ella, Steve, Denise, Nadine, Adam, Kimberly, Nancy, Betty and Kelly.