The United Church of Canada
L'Eglise Unie du Canada

Regional Council 15
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Covid-19 Update February 25, 2022 (Nova Scotia)

Dear Regional Council 15 Members (Nova Scotia),

In a February 24, 2022 update to faith leaders in Nova Scotia, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Strang, offered the following information regarding key dates in the re-opening plan for the province. Currently, as per last week's memo: https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-one/ we are in Phase 1 of reopening.

Effective February 28, 2022, the requirement for proof of vaccination to attend discretionary gatherings/events/activities ends. This means that as of that date all activities held by a faith organization will no longer require proof of vaccination.

Phase 2 of reopening will start on March 7, 2022.
Details are available at https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-two/ but the specifics for faith gatherings are:

Regular Faith Services

- 75% of the venue's capacity (indoor and outdoor) while maintaining a physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) as much as possible and mask requirements.
- Congregational singing is permitted with masks.
- Live music is permitted with musicians following the performing arts gathering limit. Wearing a mask is required when performing (except when you're singing or playing a wind instrument). Musicians and performers need to maintain a minimum physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from the congregation. Masks are recommended for choirs.

Informal Faith Gatherings

- Up to 25 people (household members and close social contacts) indoors and up to 50 people (household members and close social contacts) outdoors plus 1 person conducting the service without social distancing. Masks may be required if you're in a public place with mask requirements.

Weddings and Funerals (including visitation and receptions)
Hosted by a business or organization:

- 75% of the venue's capacity (indoor and outdoor) while maintaining a physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) as much as possible and mask requirements.

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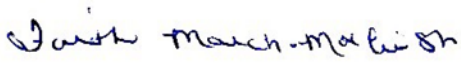
- Congregational singing is permitted with masks.
- Live music is permitted with musicians following the performing arts gathering limit. Wearing a mask is required when performing (except when you're singing or playing a wind instrument). Musicians and performers need to maintain a minimum physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from event participants. Masks are recommended for choirs.
- Informal wedding ceremonies can have up to 25 people (household members and close social contacts) indoors and up to 50 people (household members and close social contacts) outdoors plus 1 person conducting the ceremony without social distancing. Masks may be required if you're in a public place with mask requirements.

On March 21, 2022 all current Public Health restrictions and mandates will end. However, this does not at all mean that the pandemic has ended. It will be important to still use personal public health measures, both individually and collectively:
(see https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/avoiding-infection/), to help keep each other, especially those who are at increased risk of severe disease due to age and/or underling health issues, safe.

Dr. Strang also offered a sincere thank you for all you have done, and will continue to do, to serve Nova Scotians during this challenging time.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in contact at fmaccuish@united-church.ca or at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6156.

Sincerely,



Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister