

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who established our guidelines for gathering?

It was as collaborative effort.

A small team of CCG members with experience in the health care field formulated some initial guidelines for how CCG will manage in-person gatherings during the current pandemic. The following items were considered in formulating these recommendations.

- a. New York State guidelines
- b. The science of Covid-19 virus transmission
- c. Best-practices of other churches
- d. The wellbeing and safety for people attending CCG

### 2. Why are we being so strict about masks and social distancing?

The use of masks and social distancing reflects an understanding of how the virus is spread.

- a. People exhale particles from their lungs when they breath, talk and sing.
- b. Masks mostly protect other people from exhaled particles of the wearer – so masks need to be worn for the benefit of those people around you.
- c. Research has shown that some infected people have no symptoms – and thus can unintentionally infect others.
- d. Mask wearing and practicing social distancing is your personal act of kindness and respect for those people around you.
- e. The best research now indicates that COVID-19 spreads primarily through the air, and that aerosols that may contain virus can remain airborne for hours, so contact times should be limited, thus services will be limited in length and finish in under an hour.

### 3. Why are our practices more strict than other churches that I have heard of?

Our leadership team and health team are committed to following the best practices that will keep people as safe as possible.

Our activities should always seek to develop our Apprenticeship to Christ. This aligns with what Paul writes in Corinthians:

*Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those*

*not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings .(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)*

In this context, we do what is best for those around us, including doing our best to keep others safe even if we feel that it is compromising our comfort or rights.

**4. If someone in my family is sick, but I am not, can I still attend?**

If anyone in your house is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 or the flu, we ask that you participate online from home. While this may seem overly restrictive, you would not want to find out after attending that you were carrying the virus on Sunday at the service.

**5. What are the protocols for volunteers?**

All volunteers will have to fill out the health assessment before serving. They will also have temperature checks upon arrival.

**6. When will services get back to what was “normal” before the pandemic?**

This question is impossible to answer.

While we understand that we may not like much of what we are experiencing, it is helpful to look at the history of the Jesus’ movement in times like these.

For instance, in the book of *Acts of the Apostles*, we read after the stoning of Stephen in Acts 8:1, “On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.”

(While I do not believe what we are experiencing today would be classified as persecution from a global or historical perspective, there is an important principle found in this story.)

Jesus’ apprentices adapted to their reality, and this persecution leads to the message life found in Christ being spread outside of Jerusalem.

Authentic apprenticeship to Jesus means that God is WITH us in every moment, and we must adapt to our realities and still live on mission WITH him.