

## **COVID-19 Elder Response updated & Re-entering into in-person Worship & Fellowship**

**June 10, 2020**

LivingWATERS Church has maintained a posture of caring for others as an act of love in sacrifice throughout the COVID-19 crisis. LivingWATERS Church has also been purposeful in complying with the physical distancing guidelines recommended by government agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the past twelve weeks our church family has managed to continue to honor God and care for others using the internet, and in other ways, while practicing good physical distancing. Only recently have governmental guidelines are stating that it was safe enough for us to once again meet together in person. We understand that this relaxing of guidelines does not mean that the threat created by COVID-19 has passed. There continues to be many vulnerable people in our community and church family. However, the relaxing of physical distancing guidelines does signal a transition toward honoring God through increased community worship and more effective relational ministry opportunities. There is a strong desire by many in our church body to resume regular Sunday worship and other in-person fellowship. There is also a strong sense of duty on the part of everyone to provide for the safety of others. There are many compelling arguments leading to a diversity of strong and often conflicting opinions as to the responsible way forward. Recognizing the complexity of our situation, LivingWATERS Church plans to offer several ways for people to honor God while meeting the personal needs of the church body. LivingWATERS will continue to provide live, quality, broadcast for those people who need and desire to continue to safely practice physical isolation measures. LivingWATERS will also offer two other venues for coming together while physical distancing in compliance with the new governmental guidelines. First, there will be an outdoor live stream option in which the Sunday worship service will be shown on three TV monitors on the lawn behind the ministry center. Weather permitting, individuals and family groups will be able to worship and fellowship together outside, while maintaining appropriate physical distancing. Second, there will be a limited seating option in the worship center. To meet the 50% of capacity requirement we will distance the rows of chairs and ask people to leave two to three open seats between each household. Due to the limitations of numbers allowed in the worship center building, we will also be asking those who plan to attend the indoor service to “check in” by emailing the church. This will allow us to ensure that we will be able to remain in compliance with governmental guidelines in light of safety concerns. Children’s ministries will be provided during worship for both indoor and outdoor options, but as always children are welcome to remain with a parent. Masks will be available to use when in close proximity but will not be required to attend worship. Please respect the personal choice regarding whether to wear a mask or not. We understand that such measures maybe viewed as inconvenient or even unnecessary by some, but by participating in these simple measures, you provide comfort, safety and peace, for others. Regardless of whatever struggle we find ourselves in, LivingWATERS continues to honor God in an authentic and grace filled community. With that in mind, please participate as you feel led and also continue to share any needs you may have with your brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus at LivingWATERS Church.