



# COVID-19 PROTOCOL

UPDATED JANUARY 6, 2021

To minimize the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus, for the safety of our members and surrounding community, Council has adopted the following protocols. These protocols are effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

## **CORPORATE WORSHIP**

- In-person corporate worship services are cancelled until further notice
- Livestream services will be available Sundays at 9:30 am and 3:00 pm.
- In-person attendance at all live stream services is limited to 10 people (including the minister, serving elder, musician, sound booth person, and powerpoint person)
  - *For those who have had trouble with the live stream, we encourage you to view the archived version which will be available on Livestream shortly after the service*
- Attestations will be processed and announced as usual. New members will be introduced and welcomed at our next in-person worship service
- Baptisms will be performed as usual with only the parents, child and up to two guests attending in-person
- Weekly church bulletins will be distributed via Church Social

During the time we are unable to meet and worship together, all members are encouraged to set aside intentional times of family worship and dedicated prayer.

## **OPERATION OF COUNCIL AND CONSISTORY**

- All in-person meetings are cancelled until further notice. Virtual meetings will be held as needed (through Skype or a similar platform).
- An Emergency Response Team has been formed consisting of Council executive, the chair of the diacony, and br. Steve Mans, who works in the health care field.
- The Emergency Response team will review this protocol document on a weekly basis and make and communicate adjustments as the situation evolves

## **DEACONS**

- Counting of money will be suspended until further notice
- Members will be encouraged to support the deaconry through e-transfer. E-transfers can be sent to [cornerstonecanrctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:cornerstonecanrctreasurer@gmail.com) and must be specified for the deaconry (no password required). Please note that donation receipts cannot be issued for deaconry funds.
- Opportunity for e-transfers will be provided during the regular offering time in the virtual worship services

## **CATECHISM, BIBLE STUDIES, CLUBS, AND COMMITTEES**

- All in-person catechism classes, Bible studies, and club events are cancelled until further notice. Some catechism classes may be held through video conference. Committees are advised to suspend in-person meetings during this time.

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

- All fellowship groups are advised to suspend in-person meetings but to stay in touch and encourage each other, especially with seniors and other members who may be more vulnerable

## **PASTORAL CARE**

- Each ward's elders and deacon will check in with their ward members regularly and initiate more frequent contact in cases of illness and quarantine.
- Elders and deacons must ensure all senior members, and others who may be vulnerable, have access to the support they require
- Elders and deacons must ensure all communications are delivered to members who do not receive Church Social messages
- All in-person visits from elders and deacons are suspended other than in cases of extenuating circumstances

## **BUILDING USAGE**

- No access will be granted to the church building other than for live streaming, emergency meetings, funerals, or any other events that may be permitted under the current provincial lockdown restrictions.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- On-going communication about our COVID-19 protocols will be communicated via:
  - Church Social
  - Website
  - Phone Calls (for members without access to the above methods)

If you have any questions or concerns about these protocols, please address an email to the Emergency Response Team at [clerk@cornerstonehamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@cornerstonehamilton.ca).