



COVID-19 PROTOCOL

UPDATED January 5, 2022

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

- Corporate worship services will be held in person in the church building, with one morning service beginning at 9:30am and one afternoon service beginning at 3:00pm. Those in attendance will be seated in the upstairs auditorium until capacity is reached, and those arriving after the capacity has been reached will be asked to view the service from the church basement. Following the Ontario guidelines, indoor services are limited to 50 per cent of the capacity of the room.
- Livestream of the services will continue to be available for those unable to attend the worship services in person.
- For deaconry collections, the deacons will collect during the worship services, walking through the pews to minimize contact with the collection bag. E-transfers will continue to be received and can be sent to cornerstonecanrctreasurer@gmail.com and must be specified for the deaconry (no password required).
- Attestations will be processed and announced as usual
- Baptisms will be performed as usual.
- Weekly church bulletins will be distributed via Church Social, with a few printed copies being made available each week for distribution by the ushers.

OPERATION OF COUNCIL AND CONSISTORY

- All meetings will be held in the church building, in rooms which allow for 2 meter separation.
- An Emergency Response Team has been formed consisting of the Council vice-chair, both clerks, a Council member, a pastor and a member from the congregation.
- The Emergency Response team will review this protocol document on an as needed basis, or as provincial regulations change.

CATECHISM AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES

- All instructional classes will be conducted in accordance with the current protocols in place for our local schools.

BIBLE STUDIES, CLUBS, AND COMMITTEES

- All in-person Bible studies, and club events are permitted keeping in mind the requirements to ensure that physical distancing of 2 meters is possible.

SERVICE GROUPS

- Service groups are permitted to be held, but must adhere to the current provincial regulations which limit indoor gatherings to 5 people or fewer and outdoor gatherings to 10 people or fewer

PASTORAL CARE

- In-person visits between office-bearers and members for spiritual and emotional support are permitted providing all parties are comfortable with meeting and safety protocols are followed
- Elders and deacons must ensure all senior members, and others who may be vulnerable, have access to the physical, mental, and spiritual support they need
- Elders and deacons must ensure all communications are delivered to members who do not receive Church Social messages

BUILDING USAGE

- Access will be granted to the church building ensuring that the provincial guideline are adhered to:
 - a. Indoor organized public events and social gatherings are limited to 5 people
 - b. Social gatherings associated with a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite or ceremony is limited to 5 people indoors, or 10 people outdoors.

COMMUNICATION

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

If you have any questions or concerns about these protocols, please email the Emergency Response Team at clerk@cornerstonehamilton.ca.