

## Plan for Re-Engagement with Campus Life Values and Discussion Points

The elders and staff of Fullerton Free are considering multiple plans and contingencies for various size gatherings in the future, based on the most reliable scientific data and the government's recommendations as we proceed.

Recognizing that there is great potential for division and disunity, we will continue to prioritize the glory of God, the welfare of the most vulnerable, and the revelation of Christ that we the church are blessed and accountable to uphold accurately among our neighbors.

There are likely three main perspectives that people fall into:

- Those who can't understand why we are not meeting right now or soon.
- Those who are cautious, tentative, and yet open to the idea of meeting as governmental guidelines allow.
- Those who will not be comfortable for a long time being around crowds or who may never want their families to enter a public gathering until after there's a cure for the virus. (Some data suggests 11% of the population aren't likely to come back until COVID-19 is over.)

In the weeks and months ahead, we are going to be faced with many decisions concerning re-entry into campus life. Here are some things that the leadership team at Fullerton Free is considering as various parts of our country begin the reopening process. This document is in alignment with and indebted to the contributions and thinking of several church leaders across Orange County.

In order to make the hundreds of decisions that will need to be made by our shepherds, staff, and campus hosts in the future, we are establishing some strategic values and principles to inform and guide our decisions.

### VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

#### 1. The Church is not a place, it is a people to whom you belong.

- a. For believers in Christ, the question of when church gatherings will resume is one of longing and expectation because our faith is not a private faith.
- b. God created us for community and He grows us and encourages us in community.

- c. The potential for community is ongoing and unrestricted regardless of cultural circumstances.
- 2. The Church has never closed.**
  - a. We remain committed to our mission: “*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a loving community, united in sacrifice and living like Christ for the glory of God.*” This mission is being activated through the practice and implementation of our vision pillars in this new cultural context.
  - b. Every week God’s word is proclaimed, corporate and individual worship is prioritized among believers, many are being introduced to Jesus, community is developing in new ways, disciples are being drawn to prayer, ministries have adapted to new ways of accomplishing our mission, compassion is being unleashed locally and globally, and giving remains healthy.
  - c. Our partnership with the City of Fullerton has never been stronger as we seek to activate revolutionary kindness in the blessing of our neighbors, local schools and teaming with other churches and organizations.
- 3. Fullerton Free’s facility and campus gatherings are not conducive to strict social distancing guidelines.**
  - a. Kids are a top priority for us and kids do not know how to social distance.
  - b. Senior adults and people with disabilities are an important part of our community yet they face a unique challenge being at higher risk.
- 4. We will balance our enthusiasm and eagerness for gathering with discernment, care for the health of others, and attention to our witness.**
  - a. As a model of our mission to be united in sacrifice and live like Christ, we will honor our community, state, and national leaders with a cooperative spirit, a willingness to serve, and radiant peace.
  - b. Resuming on-campus gatherings *too soon* could:
    - i. Confuse our neighbors about the goodness of the church and cause them to think that we’re out of touch, uncaring, and unresponsive to their needs.
    - ii. Misrepresent the call of Scripture for disciples to be selfless, gracious, and submissive to government authorities as appointed by God.
- 5. Any plans we make will remain fluid as things change each week so we will remain agile and flexible.**

## PHASED RE-ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

1. **Phase One** — Our current state of *online* ministry.
  - a. Sunday worship services; Social Hour gatherings; Kids & Student gatherings; Small Groups connections.
  - b. Continuing our local and global compassion expressions, including food donation collections, and wellness checks of vulnerable individuals.
2. **Phase Two** — As social distancing restrictions ease, we will encourage and enable the gathering of diverse neighborhood gatherings for corporate worship.
  - a. Gather in homes, backyards, and open spaces for regional weekend services utilizing our livestream and the leadership of seasoned shepherds.
  - b. Encourage Community Groups to establish separate times to gather and continue their mission to equip the saints for ministry to their Circles, in full compliance with social distancing guidelines.
  - c. Utilize The Well and other spacious venues for meetings and gatherings of groups that are consistent with existing protocol.
3. **Phase Three** — Resumption of on-campus Sunday morning worship gatherings.
  - a. Preceded by trial services onsite for ministry leaders, HOST teams, and key volunteers to learn new protocols.
  - b. Continue weekend livestream, podcasting, Zoom connections, and other online ministry and care for those who choose to maintain various levels of social distancing beyond the government's recommended guidelines.
4. **Phase Four** — Resumption of other larger ministry gatherings on site.
  - a. In accordance with accepted distancing guidelines at the time, we will carefully re-open space for kids, students, special needs, adult fellowships, memorials, weddings, and midweek Bible studies on our campus.

We must all continue to ask what redemptive opportunities God has in store in the midst of what might otherwise be seen as obstacles. This season provides us with a unique opportunity to reevaluate what it means to be in Christ, to be His church, and to be stewards of God's grace for the good of others.

We triumphantly declare alongside the prophet Habakkuk, that God, the Lord is our strength; He makes our feet like the deer's, empowering us to scale the challenges before us and to reach new heights we could have never achieved apart from His work on our behalf! (Habakkuk 3:17-19)