

Session Snippet

Highlights from the May 11 Session meeting:

The Personnel Committee presented a revised draft for the Pastor's position description, which was approved. This is the first position description written since Pastor Mike was called to MPC.

Celebrated and approved five baptisms in the near future, with dates, locations and whether recorded or in-person to be determined by the pastor and families.

Finally, Session heard a report from the Regathering Committee (made up of some Session Members, Worship Team members, and some staff) and approved three motions for regathering safely at MPC. All gatherings will follow the latest CDC guidance on masking, distancing, and capacity.

- Session approved a plan to begin in-person small group gatherings starting May 25.
- Session approved a plan to tie resuming in-person worship to the completion of the live stream technology upgrades, allowing MPC to continue to include those who cannot or are not yet ready to return to worship. The estimated completion date is August 2. If completed sooner, this timeline could be moved up and will be communicated to the congregation.
- Session approved holding outdoor worship services on June 27 and July 25, following the latest CDC guidance on masking, distancing, and capacity.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie McCulloch, Acting Clerk

As we continue to progress in our timeline to reopen and regather, we ask that you read [this Returning to Church Supplement from the Wisconsin Council of Churches](#), as it puts into perspective the unique position churches hold in the community. [Click here for the full note.](#)

Excerpt:

As we have stated previously during the pandemic, we are not required to do something just because it is allowed. The apostle Paul advises Christians that "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up" and that they should "take care that your liberty does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak." (1 Cor. 8:1, 9). The minimum standard is not necessarily the guide by which the church should operate.

MPC's Regathering Plans and Efforts to Make Live Streaming Permanent

As our efforts to make live streaming a permanent part of worship take shape ([you can find the first announcement about this effort here](#)), there are four pieces that need to come together for success:

- **Raising funds to support the \$56,000 project cost.**

Update: as today, nearly \$28,000 has been donated or pledged--great work! Let's keep it up!

- **Professional installation of system (electrical work, equipment purchase, equipment installation)**

Update: The electrical work has been completed. This week the installer is doing some prep work so when equipment arrives it can be installed right away. This is a very encouraging development and gives us great hope that the planned completion by August 2 is likely and earlier completion is possible.

- **System services (internet, software, pc) for which MPC is responsible.**

Update: Everything is on track on MPC's end.

- **Forming and training a group of 3-6 volunteers**

Update: a few people have expressed some interest in learning more about serving in this way, but we have some work to do to make sure we can use the equipment to it's full capability. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and how you can help, please email me at mike.goodwin@mpcappleton.org.

Finally, as small groups, committees, and teams begin to gather at the church building in the coming weeks. I want to encourage you to be tuned into the ongoing guidance from the Wisconsin Council of Churches. They have some great resources on encouraging friends and family to get vaccinated as well as approaching the latest CDC guidance from the perspective of the church and loving our neighbors.

[Click here for the WCC Guidance](#)

Friends, it has been a long journey but we are in what can be, if we all work together, the home stretch. May it be so.

Pastor Mike

FAQ: The Latest Regathering Plan for Small Groups

The building is reopening to small groups! What does that mean?

Please note that we are going to continue our policy of requiring masks in the building as we do not know who is not vaccinated and want to demonstrate a level of care for all in our community.

Who can come to the building? Anyone! However, if you want to have a meeting (anything more than one person coming together), please contact Crystal at least five (5) business days in advance to reserve a room. Rooms do have occupancy limits, so only limited, small groups are able to meet at this time. *Note: Please do not plan to attend any meeting in person if you are feeling sick, if you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days or been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.*

Where can we meet? All groups, depending on size, will be asked to meet in the Fellowship Hall, the Adult Ed Room, or Heritage Room due to room space and bathroom space. After hours meetings, or special requests, may be able to meet in a different room on a case-by-case basis.

Can we bring in food? Make coffee? At this time, we ask that you not make coffee or bring food as it promotes extended time without a mask on.

Will Zoom be an option still? Each group can decide how they want to meet: all in person, all on Zoom, or meeting in a hybrid capacity – some in person and some on Zoom. If the group does want to provide an option to meet via Zoom, please let Crystal know when you make your room reservation so we can plan for technology needs.

What will be done to prepare the rooms? Rooms will be cleaned prior to reopening the building as well as between meetings.

Will cleaning supplies be available? All rooms will have masks, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer in them.

How do we get into the building? In order to maintain proper cleaning, distancing, and occupancy, we ask that you use the callbox in the vestibule to enter the building. Please stop by the office to check in before proceeding to the room you will be meeting in.

What else do we need to know? If you have met in person at the church and later test positive for COVID-19, we ask that you report that to the church office so others who met at the same time can be notified that there was a positive test (we will not share your name).