

Phased-In Worship at Central Union Church, UCC

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...” – Hebrews 10:24-25a

For months, Central Union Church has been living into this verse in ways we had never previously imagined. We have continued to heed the call of God in scripture by meeting together online and over the phone, through notecards and video conferences. While respecting the guidance of safe distance from our local and state government, we have worshipped God and used every medium available to ignite love and goodness in others. Now, we are at the cusp of once again meeting in-person for worship.

We are thrilled by the thought of resting in God’s presence in sacred space and surrounded by sisters and brothers in faith. This excitement to gather is channeled and guided by the need to move with thoughtfulness, responsibility, and faithfulness. We will be good stewards of the community God has created through us at Central Union Church.

This plan was created with a desire to move forward in a right and safe way. It is influenced by the recommendations of the CDC, denominational guidelines, and other relevant guidance.¹

<u>Phases</u>	<u>Safety Measures</u>	<u>Service Structure</u>	<u>Liturgy</u>	<u>Online</u>
<p><u>Phase One</u> <i>Current state originally scheduled through May 31 at a minimum.</i></p>	<p>*CUC Campus Closed, all activities, events, and worship services are canceled, postponed, or moved online</p>	<p>*No in-person worship services during phase one *Worship services continue online</p>	<p>*Simple liturgy that reflects the reality of “shelter-in-place” *As possible, incorporate stylistic elements from all CUC worship services *As possible, incorporate a diversity of voices and encourage engagement *Include Digital Aloha Lanai for information sharing and connecting with members and guests</p>	<p>*Online worship service on Zoom webinar distributed through Facebook Live *30-40minute service</p>
<p><u>Phase Two</u> <i>To be enacted when local government makes appropriate allowances (eg</i></p>	<p>*Encourage those at high-risk to worship online *Masks required</p>	<p>*In-person worship prioritizes outdoor spaces such as the “Great Lawn”,</p>	<p>*Online liturgy continues with outlined values (eg <i>simplicity, inclusion, etc)</i></p>	<p>*Online worship continues in current format</p>

¹ Recommendations by the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ; the CDC Guidance for Faith Communities; Daniel Chin, Deputy Director for Global Health of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; the Hawaii Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association; and the Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ. Reference documents available upon request.

<p><i>in-person gatherings of up to 50 people), proper CUC preparations (eg cleaning, communication, etc.), and worship leaders as well as church leadership feel confident that in-person worship can be offered in a safe, responsible, and sacred way.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Accessible hand sanitizer station(s) * Maintain social distance (6ft) and refrain from personal contact * Clear entrance and exit strategy * Do not come if demonstrating COVID19 symptoms such as a fever or respiratory symptoms * Avoid coming if you have recently been in contact sustained or repeated contact with someone who demonstrated these symptoms 	<p>during times that do not disrupt online worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Indoor worship suspended until a later phase * Maintain online worship services * 30-40minute service * In-person "Aloha Lanai" suspended * Sunday School, Youth Group, or Learning Tree suspended until a later phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In-person liturgy follows values of online liturgy with addition emphasis placed upon safety * Corporate singing suspended until later phases * Shared materials (eg <i>hymnals, offering plates, communion trays, etc</i>) suspended until later phases * Bring your own communion * Stay-in-Place Children's Moment * Encourage prayers sent to "prayers@" email * Online Giving * Pledge/Offering boxes available 	
<p>Phase Three <i>To be enacted after a minimum of three weeks testing Phase Two and when local government green lights larger gatherings (eg up to 100 people).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Masks required * Accessible hand sanitizer station(s) * Maintain social distance (6ft) and refrain from personal contact * Clear entrance and exit strategy to avoid "bottlenecks", keep passageways, such as the narthex, clear and moving * Staff and ushers will take note of the seating location of each household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Begin with one indoor worship service in the sanctuary * Encourage social distancing through pew distancing (<i>approximately 2 households per pew with every other pew empty</i>) * Ushers to seat attendees (<i>balcony is closed</i>) * In-person "Aloha Lanai" suspended * 30-40minute service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Online liturgy continues with outlined values (eg <i>simplicity, inclusion, etc</i>) * In-person liturgy follows values of online liturgy with addition emphasis placed upon safety. * Corporate singing TBD depending on state, ACDA, and UCC Conference recommendations * Shared materials (eg <i>hymnals, offering plates, communion trays, etc</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Online worship attempts to stream from the Parish Hall with ministers and musicians only

	<p>as a contact tracing precaution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Worship space windows and doors remain open *Do not come if demonstrating COVID19 symptoms such as a fever or respiratory symptoms *Avoid coming if you have recently been in contact sustained or repeated contact with someone who demonstrated these symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Evaluate need and feasibility of outdoor worship services *Sunday School, Youth Group, and Learning Tree suspended until later phase 	<p>suspended until later phases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Stay-in-Place Children’s Moment *Encourage prayers sent to “prayers@” email *Online Giving *Pledge/Offering boxes available 	
<p>Phase Four <i>To be enacted after a minimum of two weeks testing Phase Three. Assess need, feasibility, and local gathering guidelines before expanding.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Masks recommended (possibly required) *Accessible hand sanitizer station(s) *Maintain social distance (6ft) and refrain from personal contact *Clear entrance and exit strategy to avoid “bottlenecks”, Keep passageways, such as the narthex, clear and moving *Staff and ushers will take note of the seating location of each household as a contact tracing precaution *Windows and doors open *Do not come if demonstrating COVID19 symptoms such as a fever or respiratory symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Continue worship service structure outlined in Phase Two *Encourage social distancing through pew distancing (approximately 2 households per pew with every other pew empty) *Balcony is closed *Based upon need and capacity add an additional in-person worship service *If the second service is in the Parish Hall then live stream the service for the online component *Sunday School suspended until a later phase *Begin Youth Group, and Learning Tree after worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Online liturgy continues with outlined values (eg simplicity, inclusion, etc) *In-person liturgy follows values of online liturgy with addition emphasis placed upon safety *Corporate singing TBD depending on state, ACDA and UCC Conference recommendations *Holy Communion TBD depending on state and UCC Conference recommendations *Encourage prayers sent to “prayers@” email *Pledge/Offering boxes at the exits *Online giving encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Online worship possibly streamed from the Parish Hall *Continuing online service structure

	*Avoid coming if you have recently been in contact sustained or repeated contact with someone who demonstrated these symptoms			
Phase Five <i>To be enacted after a minimum of two weeks testing Phase Four. Assess need, feasibility, and local gathering guidelines before expanding</i>	*Masks recommended *Accessible hand sanitizer station(s) *Encourage social distance (6ft) *Assess need, capacity, learnings from prior weeks and local guidelines	*Assess need, capacity, learnings from prior weeks and local guidelines	*Assess need, capacity, learnings from prior weeks and local guidelines	*Online worship streamed from the Parish Hall *Assess need, capacity, learnings from prior weeks and local guidelines

Further Considerations:

- Thank you all for your contributions to this document as well the specific suggestions that have been, or will be, passed along to the appropriate staff.
- Let us be gracious with one another as all will be adjusting to a learning curve. Change is stressful.
- This is a summary document, many of the “nitty-gritty” details may not appear here but are incorporated into operational procedures (*eg staff will clean worship spaces in accordance with recommended guidelines*).
- This is also a working document and will continue to be refined and revised as information becomes available.
- We are mindful of airflow and avoid recirculated air.
- Let us be mindful of the wellbeing and safety of the staff and volunteers who prepare the spaces and equipment for worship.
- We will be in discussion with the Pohnpeian Ministry regarding the Pohnpeian worship service and how to best reopen in line with the values and safety measures outlined above.
- We are in the process of determining the feasibility of maintaining a stock of face masks for those who come to worship without one.