

September 17, 2021



Dear Bethel,

In response to new guidelines provided by the province, I met with our Governing Elders last night to discuss how we will adapt our plans for ministry, worship and fellowship this upcoming week. As you can imagine, “adapt” is a fitting word.

While many of us may feel the fatigue of this past year and half, there are still many God prepared opportunities for us to step in together. While we prayed through the restrictions last night, there may be new ones next week. If that happens, we’ll pray again, and adapt again, remaining faithful to what God has called us to as a community, and celebrating the gifts he has given us in fellowship with one another and union with Christ.

Based on the current guidelines, the following restrictions are asked of us as a church for places of worship:

- Capacity limited to 1/3 fire code occupancy.
- Masks are mandatory.
- 2 metres physical distancing between households, or 2 close contacts for those living alone.

While there are other stipulations for indoor social gatherings, we see the guidelines above as the ones that describe what opportunities are available for places of worship.

This directly impacts how we envision adapting our worship plans for this upcoming Sunday and other ministry plans, some of which were planned to begin next week.

- 1/3 capacity for our sanctuary is 200. We’re not requiring registration for Sunday morning worship at this time. However, we’ll monitor attendance to ensure we are not exceeding the restriction.
- We are requiring masks for those joining us in person.
- We strongly encourage everyone to remain physically distanced (2 meters) from one another. As an added measure, we will section off pews in the sanctuary and have chairs ready to be set out to ensure more spacing for Sunday in person worship.

We hope that this same wisdom and discernment will guide other groups and ministries who plan to meet at church this upcoming week. We’re open to moving forward with in person opportunities. Some groups may choose to adapt to an online format. Either way, we pray for ministry and life together to continue.

Please wait to hear from leaders of groups you may be involved with for how they would like to proceed. Pray with us about these changes and how we can best adapt to them. In a week this could all change. We’ll be ready.

We will continue to listen to what is advised from the government. We also want to hear your concerns and respond to your needs as best we can. If you have any questions about this update, please let us know by emailing [info@discoverbethel.com](mailto:info@discoverbethel.com).

May God’s light and wisdom shine brightly upon you today, and lead you to see his eternal promises.

In Christ,

Pastor Cris  
*On Behalf of the Governing Elders*