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**Date: Wednesday May 13, 2020**

**Re: Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship Services at Gateway !**

**Dear members and attendees of Gateway Church Old Brooklyn,**

How we have missed being able to gather together as the people of Jesus Christ. How grateful we are for the cautious lifting of shelter in place as Ohio begins to reopen businesses. We are planning to begin gathering again for worship services in person on Sunday, May 31.

Our aim is to have services back at the church building in a safe and orderly fashion in light of the guidelines being encouraged by our state and city leaders. To allow you time to prepare for how this will affect you and your family, here are the changes and procedures that will be implemented for a return to worship services on Sunday mornings at 10:30AM:

- For the time being, the only in-person gatherings resuming will be Sunday morning worship service at 10:30AM on Sundays. As time progresses we will focus on what the resuming of other ministries will look like for in person meeting. The service will remain shortened to a period of about 55-60 minutes.
- We ask that those who are over the age of 65 and/or have underlying medical conditions to please consider remaining home for the time being. However, if you are in this category yet feel strongly compelled to return to services on Sunday, we will of course welcome you heartily. If you have any other need of safety and feel the need for continuing to remain apart from our services, we understand your decision and are available to help you in determining a wise course of action if you need. We will continue to stream from Facebook a portion of our Sunday morning service for the time being and sermons will continue to be posted on our website.
- We request that you arrive for Sunday morning service no sooner than 10:15AM if you are not part of the set-up team.
- We request that if you are feeling ill with cold/flu like symptoms to please remain home.
- We request that those who attend please arrive to service with a facial mask covering both mouth and nose. If you do not have a mask, the church will provide you with one to wear during our service. We understand this to be not only for our own safety, but to be in line with medical safety guidelines and our Lord's command to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- There will be hand sanitizer for use upon entry into the building and also available in our worship area. In each of the restrooms there will be placed a sanitation bucket with a

bleach/water solution and towel. Before exiting the restroom we ask that you use this towel to wipe down all surfaces you have used and return the towel to the bucket.

- We will still observe social distancing. This includes but is not limited to 6' of distance between families, spaced out seating, minimal physical contact, and the taking of communion with individually packaged serving cups. We ask that you take the communion cup back to your seat for consumption. We will collect the offering per our usual method of placing in the offering the boxes before taking the Lord's supper.
- For the time being, there will be no Kid's Time during our Sunday morning worship service. This is due to several factors including the inability to have consistently socially distanced kid's activities and lack of volunteers able to safely oversee kid's time in regards to their own health.
- As each parent/guardian is comfortable, we still encourage you to attend with your children as you feel able. There will be an area at the back of the worship space for children to color or play quietly. Also as needed, parent/guardians may accompany their children to the kids room on the 1st floor if needed as an additional play area. These areas will be sanitized after each use on Sundays.
- Once service is concluded, we encourage an orderly exit from our worship area. After everyone has exited, a cleaning team will stay and disinfect the areas used.

We realize this may sound like a bit much, but we would rather over prepare and lighten some of these procedures than return to gather together ill-prepared. Our aim is to make both our gathered worship and our health a priority. We welcome your feedback as you assess these instructions around your own health and family situation.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration, and joyfully anticipating the gathering again of the Lord's people in churches across our city and beyond,

Tony Loseto, Mike Loseto  
Elders of Gateway Church Old Brooklyn

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* Philippians 1:3-6