



This Week

at Galt UMC

Special Edition

June 12, 2020



From the
Editor's Desk

We have received the very latest information on returning to "in-person" worship services from the California-Nevada Conference. In order to keep our congregation informed of what's happening we are presenting this special edition of This Week. The actual protocol document is 20 pages long. Here are some of the highlights - -

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Local Church Re-launch In-Person Protocol 2.2 Now Available

The California-Nevada Conference staff, together with lay and clergy leadership across the UMC connection, have been working to develop a set of guidelines that will help local churches re-launch in-person worship and gatherings.

Re-Launch In-Person Protocol 2.2 is the current culmination of this ongoing work.

Local church buildings are now, and will continue to remain closed through the end June.

Conference staff is providing these resources now so that local church pastors, administrators and staff have the chance to review and begin to prepare to re-launch in-person worship and gatherings when it is safe to do so.

Throughout this month Conference staff will monitor state, county and local public health department information across our regions of California and Nevada with the hope of being able to open church buildings early July.

The 2.2 protocols will be tested in 4 churches this Sunday June 14 and again by another set of 4 churches the weekend of June 21st. Learnings from these pilot Sundays will be incorporated into the protocol.

A very special thanks to all of our local church pastors, administrators and staff as we work toward gathering in new and safe ways.



Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño welcomed more than 400 clergy and laypersons attending a Special Edition of the California-Nevada Annual Conference Wednesday Webinars on June 10. The webinar released a draft of comprehensive protocol of guidelines for local churches to implement when the Bishop authorizes the resuming of in-person services.

In the Great Northern District and Central District, four UM churches will be “testing” the protocols on Sunday, June 14. Leaders from the churches will participate in a panel discussion to review the results during the Wednesday’s CNUMC webinar, June 17 from 4:00- 5:00 p.m. (PDT).

To implement re-opening protocols, churches must first develop a “Re-launch Ministry Team” of 3 to 10 people, including the pastor(s) and lay leader(s). Since CNUMC covers significant areas of two states and many counties who have experienced the pandemic at different intensities, teams need to be aware of the specific guidelines in their areas. Churches continue to be asked to follow CDC, state and local guidelines in developing plans.

The protocols are contained within a Wesleyan framework addressing the overall vision of the church to focus on John Wesley’s three simple rules of conduct: “To do no harm, do good and stay in love with God.”

The highlights of the framework include:

1. What high risk population(s) does your church have and what are their needs?
2. What will physical distancing look like in your church building?
3. What do cleaning and hygiene protocols mean for your church?
4. What is your church capacity limitation given the 25% of maximum capacity or 100-person limit in California (Nevada is 50%)?
5. How will your church address the ‘live singing’ or ‘group recitation’ restriction?
6. How will your church give and receive communion?
7. How will your church take an offering?
8. What will your church do in terms of a ‘fellowship time’?
9. Will your church continue online activities?
10. What other ministry activities will your church have in the building?
11. How will your church address hospitality issues and logistics?

After a church develops their own specific, local in-person and online ministry plan, the pastor will submit the draft to their district superintendent for final approval.

Bishop Carcaño, the Conference Lay Leader and extended cabinet have been meeting every Monday to serve as a response team to the COVID-19 pandemic. This team has been conferring with conferences across the United States and bishops in the jurisdiction, particularly Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky of the Greater Northern Episcopal Area who oversees the Alaska, Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho conferences, in order to compose the CNUMC draft.

Bishop Carcaño noted that in-person ministry is only for those churches who are prepared and who can do their in-person ministry safely. Because some areas are opening up sooner than others, local pastors and teams need to have consensus on their plans and move towards in-person ministry when the local community, laws and church are in full agreement.