

September 5th, 2020

Greetings to the Members & Friends of Stanley Park Baptist Church!

It seems hard to believe that September is already well upon us; and it's time to communicate with you once more with regard to our plans for re-opening the church building. As you may recall, in my precious email, I indicated that we were taking a three-stage approach to the re-opening. I am pleased to report that Stage One has been successfully implemented. This means that Pastor Gary, and the rest of the church staff have now been working out of the building since early August. In addition, we have successfully held four Wednesday morning Prayer & Bible Study sessions, with about 17 people attending each week. This has given us a good opportunity to test and tweak our COVID-19 protocols & policies. In addition, we have also held a Training Session in the building for group & event leaders, and for those who will be training volunteers as we return to the building. All in all, Stage One has been a success, for which we truly thank the Lord!!

That means it is now time for us to move on to Stage Two of our re-opening plan. As of Tuesday, September 8th, Small Groups are welcome to hold their meetings in the church building. To do so, the leader of the group needs to call the church office and reserve a time and space for your study. All COVID-19 protocols & policies will need to be observed; please see below.

Stage Two also means that the first phase of our Sunday morning worship will be implemented. Pastor Gary & other leaders will be there to greet and pray with those who attend, but the service, as indicated in my previous email, will be an in-person gathering to "view" the pre-recorded YouTube service which we are all watching at home. As people are comfortable with returning, and as room permits, we would like to make this available first to those who are **NOT** able to view the service at home, and to those who live alone. We are hoping to make a further announcement regarding Sunday mornings in the very near future.

Stage Three, with slightly larger Sunday morning gatherings, and hopefully with a "live-streamed" service will follow once we feel comfortable with the implementation and observance of the protocols & policies in Stage Two. I think I speak for ALL when I say how EXCITED I am to once again see "in-person" many whom I have talked to only on the phone, or virtually seen over Zoom.

A word of caution: things WILL be DIFFERENT... this is NOT a return to the way things were last March. While many are excited to return, some are apprehensive, and unsure. That's OK; we are all finding our way. However, to help you better understand what things will look like, the following link will connect you to a 19-minute Training Video [from our Board Chair, Kevin Flatt] which will help answer some of your questions and concerns. Please take time to watch it at this link:

<https://youtu.be/8WBjQ3SuWa0>

Continue to be in prayer for the SAFE re-opening of our building and church programs. As always, the SAFETY and WELL-BEING of every person entering our building is our chief concern at all times. Should you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me as your Moderator, and I will be sure to pass your concerns on to the appropriate personnel.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Paul Kowtecky
SPBC Moderator