Report From Session

Members and Friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church:
The Session met on August 19th via Zoom to receive and discuss the report from the Re-Opening Task Force. Members of the task force prepared an extensive protocol for re-opening the church buildings in accordance with CDC guidelines. Session’s discussion yielded several key areas for revision and sent it back to the task force who will return it to the Session next week. The Session will meet again on September 2nd to adopt a report. The report will then provide us with guidance and guidelines for re-opening the building when it seems safe to do so.

As you know, we previously targeted the date of September 13th to begin limited “in-person” worship. When we did that, we expected that conditions in the state would have improved but they worsened. Marion County has an increasing number of people per 100,000 who are testing positive.

The public schools were slated to open in September but have determined that it is not safe to do so. The state, following the science, set metrics that a county must meet before opening schools can be done more safely.

The Session discussed setting its own metric to guide our return to worship. During the summer, meetings of small groups can take place outside on the church campus and we will have additional parking lot services until the building is open. The next parking lot service will be August 30th with another being planned for September.

Other strategies for meeting in smaller groups are being explored should the weather turn cold before we are able to have larger group worship together. We welcome your ideas.

Our prayers extend to all our members, especially those who are unable to access our ministry options through technology. May God give us all the patience, endurance, and wisdom to bring this congregation through the pandemic in physical, emotional, and spiritual health.