

# **The Anglican Diocese of Central Newfoundland**

## **Diocesan Reopening Guidelines**

### **Introduction**

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Diocese of Central Newfoundland will be starting to re-open the doors of our churches to public worship. This day has been a long time coming for many of us, clergy and parishioner alike. As we learn to live with the new reality of COVID-19 in our lives, we must learn to do church differently. Government restrictions make what we once considered “normal” a thing of the past.

The Regional Deans of our Diocese have been tasked with helping prepare a document to help guide every congregation in preparing to open their doors, while prayerfully considering all aspects of the “new normal” that our society is in. Some of the considerations may be considered as common sense, other considerations can be seen as “unnecessary.” However, every aspect of this document was prayerfully and practically prepared with the safety of all our parishioners in mind.

### **Preparing to Reopen for Worship**

Before opening our doors for Worship once again, each Parish Council and/or Vestry will be required to meet and review this document and the expectations around what reopening will look like. The Diocese has clearly stated that public worship will not be resuming before September 6<sup>th</sup> at the earliest, yet this does not require a congregation to open specifically on this date; if your congregation or Parish feels that they need extra time to prepare, that will be their choice. If a parish/congregation feels they cannot meet the expectations, they must wait until they are able to follow the guidelines.

**All guidelines in this Document must be read thoroughly**

**Pages 2-3 of the Document are the Provincial Government Guidelines**

**Pages 4-10 of the Document are the Diocesan Guidelines**

**Pages 11-26 are checklists and reference guides.**

**Suggested Templates for Morning & Evening Prayer are included in this package.**

## **Provincial Government Guidelines (condensed)**

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/faith-based-organizations/>

- Places of worship may host services and faith-based activities of no more than 50 people, or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is less. This limit includes officiants, staff and volunteers.
  - *For example, a Church building with a normal seating capacity of 350 is limited to 50 people, and a Church building with a capacity of 60 is limited to 30 people.*
- Physical distancing of 2 meters (6 feet) must be maintained between congregants. People from the same bubble can sit together without physical distancing.
- Arrange or mark seating to ensure physical distancing between individuals who are not in the same bubble.
- Registration of participants is required to effectively manage the number of individuals attending for contact tracing efforts. Registration through phone or online processes is encouraged.
- Use visual cues to support physical distancing, such as floor markings and posters. Verbal reminders of physical distancing are also recommended.
- Implement one-way traffic flow (e.g. enter through one door and exit through another, designating smaller aisles as one-way).
- Control and stagger entry into, and exit from, the place of worship before and after services (e.g. by dismissing individuals by section, rather than all at once).
- Identify areas, such as lobbies, where crowding and bottlenecks are common, and use volunteers, staff, or barriers to redirect people who may gather in these areas.
- If multiple gatherings are held on a single day, the start and end times must allow for attendees who are exiting one gathering to avoid contact with those arriving for the next gathering. There must also be sufficient time for cleaning and disinfection between gatherings.
- Handshaking, hugging, touching or passing objects between people, or other forms of physical contact are not permitted.
- Passing collection plates is not permitted. Alternatives can be considered, such as online donations or a depository to accept offerings.
- Faith-based rituals requiring physical contact between people should be changed to maintain physical distancing; if this is not possible, increase hand hygiene and wear a non-medical mask.
- If touching of ceremonial objects is required, individuals should perform hand hygiene before and after touching the object. They should not kiss, embrace, or press their faces on any shared ceremonial objects.
- Choirs are not permitted. Congregational singing is discouraged. Participants can hum, where appropriate.

- Offering of infant and child minding, Children’s Liturgy or Sunday School is not permitted at this time. Children should stay with their families for the duration of the service.

### **Enhanced Sanitation**

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-NL.pdf>

- Provide Health Canada approved hand sanitizer (these typically contain at least 60 per cent alcohol) near the entrances and exits and throughout the place of worship in high traffic areas. Signage should be posted asking congregants to use sanitizer.
- Increase cleaning and disinfection of commonly contacted areas, including:
  - Seating;
  - Light switches;
  - Doorknobs;
  - Elevator buttons; and
  - Railings;
  - Ceremonial objects.
- Washrooms should be open, but increased cleaning and disinfection must take place. Ensure washrooms are always supplied with liquid soap and paper towels, and that warm running water is available. Contactless garbage bins should be available and emptied frequently.

### **Personal Practices**

- You should complete the COVID-19 self-assessment before visiting a place of worship.
- You should stay home if you are sick.
- If you are over 60 or have an underlying medical condition, you should consider delaying your return to your place of worship. Continue to participate in services online, if possible.
- If you have arrived in Newfoundland and Labrador from outside the province within the last 14 days (outside of the Atlantic Bubble), you need to self-isolate and are not permitted to visit the place of worship.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette, and avoid touching your face.
- It is recommended, though not required, that face masks be worn. Non-medical face masks are permitted if they have been cleaned before attendance, and personal-sized hand sanitizer can be brought from home. Should Government regulations change regarding masks, their recommendation will be our policy.

### **Regarding Fundraisers (Food-Based)**

Food-based fundraisers may only take place in a take-out format, following all personal hygiene and physical distancing rules as set out by the Provincial Government. Sit-in meals are prohibited.

### **Church Hall Rentals**

Church Halls continue to remain closed to outside groups for rentals (ie. AA, baby showers, etc.). For further inquiries contact the Bishop.

### **Regarding the Liturgies**

#### **Basic Principles**

Please note the following requirements and regulations for all Worship Services (see the above Provincial Guidelines for more details)

1. No sharing of worship materials such as prayer books, hymn books, and song books. We are asking that no personally owned books be brought from home. Churches are to provide PowerPoint liturgies or one-time use worship booklets/bulletins.
2. The presider will prepare the Intercessory/prayers of the people list.
3. Only use the minimum number of people required to perform the liturgy; presider, Licensed Lay Minister, one reader, and musician(s) for example.
4. Those providing the readings and prayers are not to share microphones. If your church has multiple microphones, each must be designated for the readers, and sanitized following the liturgy.
5. Until further notice there will be no congregational singing during worship services, and choirs are not permitted.
6. Taped music and singing may be used.
7. Musicians must be twelve feet apart, must have their own microphones, and are not permitted to share instruments, as per Government guidelines.
8. A musician may play instrument in place where hymns are normally sung, and during the time of administering the consecrated bread.
9. When using music from the internet (Hymnals) all copyright laws will be adhered to.
10. Parishes will have their own CCLI license or be listed on the diocesan license.
11. At the discretion of the presider and with the permission of the bishop, a soloist may sing while staying twelve feet or more away from worshipers.

### **Regarding Licensed Lay Ministers**

1. If social distancing can be maintained, one LLM may robe for the service and be seated at the side of the chancel.
2. At the discretion of the presider a LLM may not be permitted in the chancel area.

3. LLMs should not help with the service other than reading the scripture reading and the prayers of the people.
4. The appointed LLM will read from the Lectern and will be the only person to read from there if a microphone is used. If there is no microphone, then other readers may read from the lectern also.
5. Should more than one reader be assigned to read, and if unable to share the lectern, then the readers will read from their own stations, either at their seat or at the front of the Nave.

### **Entering & Exiting the Church**

1. Markers/lines two meters apart on the floor will help people maintain social distancing.
2. If a church only has one entrance point, arrows must mark the direction of flow of traffic.
3. Markers outside will help people maintain safe distancing.
4. When entering the building people will immediately take a seat to alleviate any chance of group conversation. People may chat while maintaining social distancing.
5. Covid-19 information will be posted throughout the church, and instructions given at the beginning of the service.
6. Floor marking will keep people two meters apart when it is necessary for them to be waiting in line.
7. Sanitizing stations will be available throughout the nave and at other location, the Sanctuary, the vestry, and other rooms.
8. People should be encouraged to have their own hand sanitizer so that they do not have to handle a sanitizer after others. Hand sanitizer may be placed in each pew.
9. When exiting the building social distancing of two meters will be maintained. Side persons may direct people to exit one pew at a time.
10. People will go directly to their vehicle and not gather in groups on the church parking lot.

### **Morning & Evening Prayer**

The Daily Office must follow the guidelines as set forth in the Basic Principles, as led by either a priest or Licensed Lay Minister.

Please note that a printable template will be provided with this package.

### **Prayer and Praise**

As congregational singing and choirs are currently prohibited under the Government guidelines, Prayer and Praise Services are discouraged.

## **Confirmation**

For any and all concerns regarding Confirmation and Confirmation Classes, please contact the Bishop.

## **The Holy Eucharist**

In addition to the basic principles:

1. Please note that if a Priest is uncomfortable celebrating the Eucharist at this time, they must contact the Bishop with any and all concerns.
2. One person (either the Presider or an individual designated) will prepare the elements and prepare the table during the liturgy
3. The Presider will wash hands with a sanitizer before beginning the service.
4. When preparing the elements, the Presider will place the bread on the paten directly from the package without touching the bread.
5. Only a small amount of wine to be consumed by the presider during the consecration will be placed in the chalice by the Presider.
6. The Presider will place the bread in the communicant's hand without touching. If a hand is accidentally touched, then the Presider must immediately wash hands with a sanitizer.
7. Only the Presider will be near or around the altar during the service. Preferably, only the Presider will be in the chancel during the service, unless social distancing can be maintained.
8. The Presider will wash hands with a sanitizer before administering the consecrated bread.
9. Churches with a center isle only will have one person come forward to receive. The next communicant will not leave to go forward until the previous communicant is seated.
10. Churches with side isles will have communicants' line up in the center isle to receive the consecrated bread and will go back to the pews via the side isles. Markers on the floor will keep communicants two meters apart in the lineup.
11. Communicants will receive in one kind only.
12. Communicants will not be served at the altar rail, but at a station in front of the chance steps and/or at another station at the back of the Nave.
13. The Presider will remain as far away from the communicant as possible when administering the consecrated bread.
14. The presider will wear a mask when administering the consecrated bread, and may wear disposable gloves if desired.

## **Holy Baptism**

In addition to the basic principles:

1. Please note that if a Priest is uncomfortable celebrating a Baptism at this time, they must contact the Bishop with any and all concerns.
2. The family of the baptismal candidate must be consulted on the numbers that will be permitted during the service. Where possible, encourage either a live stream or video recording for those who are not present.
3. Family and friends who are a part of the vulnerable population should be discouraged from attending. People who are feeling unwell, or self-isolating, are not permitted to attend.
4. During the Service, the cleric should not hold the baby, but ask a parent to do so for the duration of the service. Only the clergy and parents should be at the Font while godparents maintain physical distance.
5. When blessing the water, the cleric should not make contact with the water. While one parent holds the infant, the other parent can pour the water over the infant's forehead and make the sign of the cross at the appropriate times with the cleric speaking the words "We baptize you..." and "We sign you with the cross...". The parent should also be the one to wipe the forehead of the baptized with a single use cloth or paper towel which should be kept by the parent using it and disposed of once they get home.
6. If a candle is lit as part of the ceremony, this should be done by one of the Godparents without any intermediary. The cleric would still be the one to speak the words "Receive the light of Christ...".
7. Baptism liturgies with multiple candidates are prohibited at this time for the fact that the water of Baptism cannot be used upon more than one person. Once a baptism is complete, the water must be disposed of and not used for other baptisms or other purposes

## **Holy Matrimony**

In addition to the basic principles:

1. The members of the bridal party must be limited to accommodate both physical distancing and the capacity limits.
2. A thorough cleaning of the Church (according to Public Health Guidelines as outlined earlier in this document) will need to take place prior to the rehearsal and following the rehearsal.
3. Only those directly involved in the wedding ceremony are permitted at the rehearsal; this means the couple to be married and the bridal party. Family members will not be permitted to attend the rehearsal unless needed otherwise.

4. It is advised that the couple be the only one to process and/or recess, ensuring attendees are seated in a way that they are physically distant from the couple as they process or recess.
5. Apart from the couple, physical distance should be observed as far as possible. Please note that the priest does not have to touch the rings to bless them, nor does he or she have to touch the couple's hands as part of a prayer or blessing (the tying of the knot). The rings can be placed upon the cleric's book by the person in possession of the rings, blessed without touching them, and then the couple can retrieve them from the book.
6. All those signing the register should sanitize their hands before signing, complete all the signatures necessary for them and then sanitize them again. Apart from the couple, all those signing should maintain physical distancing if practicable and individual pens for each signatory should be used.
7. No receiving lines are permitted.

### **Funerals**

In addition to the basic principles:

1. Capacity guidelines are in conjunction with those that the Funeral Homes must abide by.
2. Wakes in churches are still prohibited, and if a body must lie in state in a church building it must be limited to a family only visitation

### **Multi-point Parish Considerations**

1. Each Vestry will determine if the church can be opened safely.
2. Based on Government rules, each church will determine how many worshipers may attend a service and be able to maintain social distancing, either fifty or a lesser number based on fifty percent capacity.
3. Vestry will determine if it has the financial capacity to do what needs to be done to maintain a safety-oriented church.
4. Vestry will determine if it has the workforce to do the activities that has to be done to clean and disinfect the building after each service.
5. Vestry will appoint a person to register worshipers and screen worshipers ahead of approval to attend.
6. Vestry will determine how many sanitizing stations will need to be arranged throughout the building.
7. Vestry will implement a safe procedure for counting and looking after the offering.
8. Vestry will make sure required signage is posted throughout the building.
9. A greeter will inform the worshipers about the safety rules as they enter the church.

10. A sexton or assigned individual will oversee the cleaning process.
11. The Vestry/Parish Council and Rector will determine how many services would be sufficient per month until Alert Level One is implemented.
- 12. Should a congregation/Vestry decide it is not prepared to open, the decision will be communicated to the Bishop/Synod Office explaining the reasons for the decision.**
13. Should a small congregation have vulnerable, older worshipers then a decision must be made as to whether it is safe to open at this time. Even if it is decided to open the risk must be communicated to vulnerable individuals.
14. Each congregation vestry will prepare the church building for safe public worship.
15. To limit group interaction Vestry/Parish Council meetings will be scheduled only if necessary.
16. A limited number attending any meeting will keep the group as small as possible.

### **Pastoral Care Considerations**

1. Hospital Visitations/Long Term Care as per Government guidelines
  - Regularly check for updates on Government COVID site for changes in policy
  - Regularly check in with hospitals and LTC Facilities by telephone.
2. Routine Visitations with Parishioners
  - Maintain telephone contact with Parishioners until a vaccine is available
  - If a visit is explicitly requested by an individual, cleric must wear a mask and ensure distancing is followed.
  - a. Scenarios for visitation
    - End of life if requested by the family
    - Deliver news of tragic event and/or death if requested
3. Home Communion
  - By request at end of life with permission from the Bishop and adhering to Government Guidelines.
  - Routine Home Communion shall be at the discretion of the cleric

**Please note that no clergy of the Diocese will be required to go into any visitation situation they are uncomfortable with throughout the duration of the pandemic.**

## **Conclusion**

We as a Diocese do understand that this may seem like a daunting task for many of our congregations, especially those with aging populations and limited volunteers. However, this is now the reality that we find ourselves in. At the end of the day, our beloved Churches are public buildings, and as public buildings we have to ensure we follow the guidelines set forth by our Provincial Government. These guidelines are not meant to be oppressive: it has been proven that abiding by these guidelines help limit the spread of COVID-19, and we live in hope that continuing to follow these guidelines we will be guided through the storm of this pandemic into the light on the other side.

### Prepared for the Diocese of Central Newfoundland by the Regional Deans in Consultation with the Bishop and Archdeacon

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## Checklists for Parishes & Congregations

The following checklists are meant to compliment this document, as to help congregations and parishes not only prepare to reopen, but to make sure that everything has been completed during the process. These checklists can be adjusted for individual congregations if necessary.

### **Checklist for Vestry/parish council meeting before deciding on opening**

Task	Notes	Date completed
Check in to see how people feel about opening or not – go over government (see below)and diocesan documents (including latest update of both)		
What do we need to open		
Measuring of churches		
Cleaning of churches		
Roles: Greeters		
Cleaners		
Registers		
Ushers		
Do we have the people? Who will do what		
What supplies do we need to open?		
Cleaners		
PPE		
Signage		
Rope for marking seats		

<b>Government regulations – June 24</b>		
Physical distance – 6 ft between congregants/bubbles		
Arrange and mark seating		
Register participants for tracing		
Visual cues – signage markings		
One way traffic		
Identify where crowding can occur and have volunteer with plan		
Provide hand sanitizer at least 60% alcohol		
Increase cleaning of high touch surfaces (seating, door knobs, railings, light switches, etc)		
If Washrooms are open – increase cleaning		
Contactless garbage bins		
No physical contact or passing of objects		
Collection plate in one location		
No use of common place items – books hymnals (Can bring own) All printed materials are one use only – must be discarded		
Microphones cannot be shared		
No choirs		
Singing not recommended – solists must be 12 ft from others		
No children’s liturgy/ Sunday school		

**Checklist for each Church in preparation for opening**

Task	Notes	Date completed
Seating Chart made and clearly marked		
Remove and store all non-essential items from public spaces including high touch liturgical items and all items from the pews.		
Create clear markers and spacing for seating to maintain physical distancing.		
Take an inventory of cleaning and sanitation supplies and ensure that there is a supplier identified.		
Set up mask and sanitizer stations as outlined in the Guidelines, ensure bathrooms are fully stocked, and remove covers from garbage receptacles.		
Place signs throughout the building as outlined in the Guidelines.		
Communicate to the Parish and General Public regarding your worship schedule and how to register. Communicate and educate about Covid-19 and the efforts your Parish are undertaking to keep everyone safe.		

**Checklist for before each service**

Task	Notes	Date completed
Complete a thorough cleaning of the entire church building if not already done so following the last gathering held.		
Have people assigned to needed roles and in place		
Pre-register attendees prior to the Service and provide this list to the Greeter for confirmation as people arrive.		
Have greeters in place with checklist		
Plan and organize the liturgy within the Guidelines. Create one time use Bulletins, digital copies, or projections of the liturgy. Place any one time use bulletins in the designated pews prior to people arriving.		

**Checklist during each service**

Task	Notes	Date completed
Prop open doors and increase ventilation.		
Place the Offering plate in the common area for people's offerings.		
Confirm those attending – either through prepared list or by putting them on a list as they arrive.		
Greet and instruct attendees as they arrive.		
Seat attendees by household as outlined in the guidelines.		
Monitor common areas to avoid and discourage congregating.		
Sexton to be stationed at bathrooms to quickly disinfect common touch areas between users.		
Announce to congregation, just prior to the liturgy starting, the expectations to maintain safety and well-being while in the building.		
Monitor and respond to requests for assistance throughout the Service.		

**Checklist for after each Service**

Task	Notes	Date completed
Dismiss the congregation in a manner in keeping with physical distancing		
Monitor common areas to avoid and discourage congregating.		
Count and process the offerings in a safe manner.		
Discard single use bulletins and anything left behind in the pews.		
Clean and Disinfect the Building according to government guidelines.		
Contact tracing list given to person responsible to keep on file for a 14-day period following the date of the Service.		

## Checklist for greeters

Task	Notes	Date completed
Do you have a mask (if not point them to where the masks are)		
Do you have hand sanitizer (If not, point to where they are)		
Have you traveled outside of the Province/country or had contact with anyone who has traveled?		
Do you have any symptoms of Covid-19?		
You must be prepared to have a record kept of your attendance for contact tracing purposes		
Information to be given by greeters:		
Locations of masks, hand sanitizer		
Protocol of entry and exit		
Protocol of bulletins/books		
Protocol around bathroom		
Protocol around cleaning		
Protocol around offering plate		

## Checklist for Weddings (inside and outside)

Please refer to the Bishop's pastoral letter

All of the checklists provided for services in the building must be followed,

Task	Notes	Date completed
Obtain permission from Bishop		
Have proper government signage in washrooms		
Physical distancing is to be maintained		
The number must conform to the government regulations and include the officiant, photographers and other staff		
A list of attendees must be supplied for contact tracing		
If using chairs, bulletins must be placed on chairs – not handed out		
Ushers may lead people to seats at a physical distance		
Protocols around checking for symptoms, etc. are the same as a regular service and those sick must stay at home		
No congregational singing – solist must be at least 12 feet from others		
Officiant must wear mask/face shield unless 6 ft away and no handling of rings or other objects		
The Officiant is not to wrap their stole around couple's hands		
No shared microphones		
Wedding party other than bride and groom must be distanced or wear masks		
No receiving line, handshakes, etc		

### Checklist for Funerals (inside and outside)

All of the checklists provided for services in the building must be followed,

#### Outside funerals

Task	Notes	Date completed
Physical distancing is to be maintained		
The number must conform to the government regulations and include clergy and funeral home staff		
A list of attendees must be supplied for contact tracing		
If using chairs, bulletins must be placed on chairs – not handed out		
Officiant must wear mask/face shield unless 6 ft away		
Protocols around checking for symptoms, etc. are the same as a regular service and those sick must stay at home		
No congregational singing – soloist must be at least 12 feet from others		
No shared microphones		
No receiving line, handshakes, etc		

### Checklist for a body in state in a Church

Please refer to the Bishop's pastoral letter

All of the checklists provided for services in the building must be followed

Wakes are not permitted at this time, only reduced family visitation at the church for pastoral care

Task	Notes	Date completed
Physical distancing is to be maintained		
The number must conform to the government regulations include clergy and funeral home staff		
A list of attendees must be supplied for contact tracing		
Officiant must wear mask/face shield unless 6 ft away		
Protocols around checking for symptoms, etc. are the same as a regular service and those sick must stay at home		
No congregational singing – solist must be at least 12 feet from others		
No shared microphones		
No receiving line, handshakes, etc		

### Checklist for Baptism

Please refer to the Bishop's pastoral letter. All Protocols for worship must be followed

Task	Notes	Date completed
Baptisms are only those that are considered urgent		
Obtain Bishop's permission		
Physical distancing is to be maintained		
The number must conform to the government regulations include clergy		
During the consecration of the after the presider will not touch the water		
The couple will hold the child at all times, and will pour the water at time of baptism		
The baptismal candle will not be handled by the clergy		
The words of baptism will be said by the presider		

### Checklist for outside worship

Appropriate checklists for worship should be followed and adapted for outside

Task	Notes	Date Completed
Physical distancing is to be maintained		
The number must conform to the government regulations and include clergy and other worship leaders		
A list of attendees must be supplied for contact tracing		
If using chairs, bulletins must be placed on chairs – not handed out		
Officiant must wear mask/face shield unless 6 ft away		
Protocols around checking for symptoms, etc. are the same as a regular service and those sick must stay at home		
No congregational singing – solist must be at least 12 feet from others		
No shared microphones		
No receiving line, handshakes, etc		

### Checklist for recording worship

Please refer to the Bishop's pastoral letter

Task	Notes	Date Completed
Physical distancing is to be maintained (remember that sometimes people appear closer on camera and should be spaced accordingly) and government regulations followed		
Only those required for recording should be present		
No congregational singing – soloist must be at least 12 feet from others		
No shared microphones		
Hand Sanitizer must be available		
Appropriate cleaning of equipment and highly touched services		



## **Shaping our Living to Protect One Another Guidelines for Resuming In-Person Worship**

We're glad you decided to attend worship today. You'll notice that many things have changed since you were last in the building. We've all had to adapt our habits and practices as we try to limit the spread of COVID-19, and the church is no different in that regard. As we re-open the church building we're trying to create an environment that will allow us to worship together safely, recognizing that we're all responsible not only to protect ourselves, but also to do our best to protect one another. With that in mind, please review the following checklist. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to one of the Greeters or a Warden (if one is present).

- I do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (see poster) and I haven't been in contact with anyone who does or who has tested positive for COVID-19
  
- I haven't travelled outside of the Atlantic Provinces within the past two weeks and I haven't had contact with anyone who has (and neither has anyone in my "bubble")
  
- I'm willing to observe the physical distancing restrictions by following the markings inside and outside the church building designed to help me keep 6' apart from anyone who is not in my family group or "bubble" (unfortunately, this also means avoiding handshakes or hugs at this time)
  
- I'm willing to use hand sanitizer before entering and leaving church as an added precaution for me and others
  
- I have a cloth or disposable mask with me and agree to wear it while in the building, or at least when entering the building until I'm seated and before I leave my pew or the building - if you don't have a mask with you, don't worry, one will be provided (note: if there's a medical reason you can't wear a mask, please talk to a Greeter)
  
- I'm willing to have a Greeter record my name and phone number for contact tracing, if needed, realizing that the Parish will keep this information in a secure location
  
- I'm willing to follow the direction of the Greeters and Usher who are there to help me enter church and be seated safely (note: we're all new at this so please try to be patient with each other)

☐ I realize that the Parish has taken considerable time and effort in preparing to re-open and if I have any concerns or questions I'll direct them to a Greeter, the Usher, a Warden or the Rector/Presider so that they can be addressed promptly (note: we're all learning how to be together again in the same space while also respecting provincial health and safety guidelines; we know we still have more to learn so please give us feedback if you see things we could do better or differently)

☐ I'll try to remember to take my bulletin home with me or drop it in the recycling bin on my way out and return my prayer book to the appropriate box (note: we know this is a lot of information to absorb so if you forget please don't worry about it; someone will make sure everything gets to where it needs to be)

A Prayer for Use During a Time of Pandemic (from the Anglican Diocese of Niagara)

*Loving God, whose peace passes all our understanding; as we face this present pandemic, and experience fear and anxiety, may we hear your voice, bringing calm to the storms of our time. Strengthen those who work to limit the spread of infection, and those who seek to care for the sick, and keep us mindful of those most vulnerable. May we shape our living to protect one another, and may our changing habits, practices and sacrifices, be for the greater love of our community and all your people. Amen.*

## **Consulted Resources**

Province of Newfoundland & Labrador “Guidance for Faith-based Organizations”

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador “Many Members, One Body”

Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island, Parish of Horton

Diocese of Huron

Diocese of Ottawa “In This Together”