

## Materials & Data Informing Zion's Approach to a Return to In-Person Worship and Activities

- Input from Zion's COVID-19 Response Team: Dr. Frank Scamman and Dr. Rick Dobyns
- CDC Guidance for Faith Communities
- Guidelines from the Federal Government "Opening Up America Again"
- Johnson County Department of Public Health
- City of Iowa City COVID-19 resources
- State of Iowa Governor's Office and Department of Public Health
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *"Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship: Being Together During the COVID-19 Pandemic"* 12 May 2020
- Wisconsin Council of Churches, *"Returning to Church: Ministry during the COVID-19 outbreak"* 23 April 2020.
- Nelson, Heather R. *"Singing, the Church, and COVID-19: A Caution for Moving Forward in our Current Pandemic"* 29 April 2020
- National Association of Teachers of Singing Webinar, *"A Conversation: What Do Science and Data Say About the Near Future of Singing?"* 5 May 2020
- Faith & Leadership, *A Learning Resource for Christian leaders and their institutions from Leadership Education at Duke University*
- Wheaton College Humanitarian Disaster Institute – *Preparing Your Church for Coronavirus (COVID-19): A Step-by-Step, Research-Informed and Faith-Based Planning Manual*
- Kirkpatrick, Nathan. *"How to think about what's next when the future is unclear."* | *Faith and Leadership*, 28 Apr. 2020
- John Thornburg. *"When We Return."* *Discipleship Ministries*, 27 Apr. 2020, [www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/when-we-return](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/when-we-return).
- Chin, Daniel P. *"When Your Church Reopens, Here's How to Meet Safely."* *ChristianityToday.com*, Christianity Today, 7 May 2020
- The three Texas-Louisiana ELCA Synods - *"Coming Back Together as a Congregation Guidelines"* and *"Coming Back Together Worship Resources"* 22 April 2020.

## Metrics for Movement between Phases

Phase One may begin when the state of Iowa has had two weeks of declining daily hospital admission rates for COVID-19 and a sustained reading approaching five or less deaths per day from the virus. These metrics are recommended to us as they are relevant to our region, verified by reputable agencies, define outcomes that matter and are broadly available. Once these metrics are met, our church community still must consider other more subjective variables before moving forward.

The shift from Phase One to Phase Two is based on a re-evaluation of the situation using the original criteria. Several weeks of improving conditions may be expected to pass before this shift. This will require careful observance of physical distancing recommendations on an ongoing basis. Other factors influencing this decision include:

- guidance from the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the ELCA
- guidance from local, state, and national public health officials
- decisions regarding reopening and in-person gatherings made by the University of Iowa, Iowa City Community School District, and other key establishments in our community.

The shift from Phase Two to Phase Three is based on a re-evaluation of the situation using the original criteria. We might expect several more weeks of improving conditions to pass before this shift. It is possible that conditions will not improve, but infections will increase again. In that case, physical

distancing recommendations would need to be tightened temporarily in order to get back on track.  
Progress will not necessarily be linear.