

A letter from Audrey Lumsden, Chair of TMUC Council

TMUC Ministry update, Summer 2020 – Part 2

Greetings:

I am writing to provide our TMUC congregation with another brief update from our TMUC Council meeting that was held on Wednesday, August 26th regarding building re – opening and the mandated use of masks in the church building. We hope this is helpful information.

BUILDING RE – OPENING PLAN:

An extensive part of the meeting was spent discussing our eventual building re – opening (considering current Canada and Manitoba regulations as of August 14th and relating to faith-based gatherings). We are mindful that these are ever changing and may require modifications. We considered possible regulations and recommendations pertaining to TMUC, and specific processes for TMUC services including worship, funerals and baptisms, the TMUC office and Administration, tenants and users of the building.

We are grateful to the individuals that have spent a great deal of time and effort on gathering and preparing information to help provide guidance, and for the input of our Ministers and Council members in providing leadership during this challenging time in dealing with this pandemic.

PRIMARY CONSIDERATION:

Primary consideration has and will continue to be given to safety, including safety of staff, church members, volunteers, tenants of our building and accessing the property. A given is that COVID-19 will continue to affect what we do and how we can act until at least the summer of 2021. This continues to be ongoing and unpredictable. Importantly, faith-based gatherings in places of worship are high risk groups for COVID-19, based on numbers earlier in the pandemic and on demographics.

As a result of the review, two items of importance have arisen, including the first one which will affect anyone visiting our church. These include:

- **Masks are now mandatory for everyone in the TMUC building with the exception of children up to and including grade three.**

- The Council is considering a small group gathering for 30 minutes of worship on Thanksgiving Sunday at 10 and possibly at 11am. Registration by phone will be required and physical distancing must be maintained. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please call Carol or Jeff at home - 204-224-2979. No decision has been made on worship in person past that date, and everything is dependent on Public Health Orders which will determine if this is possible at that time.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT DINNER THEATRE COMPANY:

The TMUC Council was in receipt of correspondence advising that this year's production that we had hoped for with October dates has been cancelled. This is disappointing but in light of the COVID19 restrictions was the right decision. Contact will soon be made by the committee members regarding possible refunds including donating the cost of the ticket to TMUC with a tax receipt or refunds. A huge thank you to those associated with the production and an acknowledgement of their extraordinary efforts. We are grateful and hopefully the show can go on in months to come.

Please enjoy the fleeting days of summer as fall is beginning to peak around the corner. We will continue to update you via email as well as sending a letter update to those who are not accessing email.

Blessings,

Audrey Lumsden
Chair, TMUC Council