

Living Stones Church Family,

This unprecedented season is one that we will never forget. It seems as if the world came to a sudden halt as measures were taken to curb the spread of COVID-19. For many of you, this has come with great personal impact as jobs have been lost, employees have been furloughed, milestone events have been cancelled or postponed, and daily routines and schedules have been turned upside down. Though the world has come to a halt, the mission of God continues to advance. Through all the unknowns, one thing is certain, God is good and we trust He is up to deep work for His glory and our sanctification.

We know many are eager, as are we, to begin meeting together again for corporate worship. As some of the restrictions are eased, we want to share with you a phased plan that the elders have put in place for the care and shepherding of the church. As this plan rolls out, let's be on guard against the enemy who loves nothing more than to cause division. For some, this plan may be disappointing and feel like we're not moving quick enough, and others may be concerned that we are moving too fast. Let's not give the enemy a foothold and instead operate with an abundance of grace and understanding. In each phase, please follow appropriate CDC guidelines.

The phases below serve as a potential framework that are open to change as the pandemic evolves.

SCATTERED CHURCH

Phase 2

(Current)

As the governor moves to phase 2, we anticipate gathering sizes will be increased to more than 10, but still remain small.

In this phase we will continue online services for your safety and the safety of our community. As restrictions are relaxed in this phase, individuals that are comfortable and safe to do so, can choose to begin meeting for corporate worship in Host Homes across the city. We recognize that other smaller churches in our city may have the ability to begin meeting again before Living Stones. Restrictions that will be in place are easier to accommodate for smaller church bodies (95% of churches in America are less than 500 people). Living Stones weekly attendance is approximately 1200 people.

However, we should not be discouraged by the scattered church phase! Many of the fastest growing churches in the world exist in persecuted countries who operate using this model and see many come to faith. As pastors, we're excited for this phase as an incredible missional opportunity. We hope to have close to 70 Host Homes where people will be gathering for worship, deepen relationships with one another, and serve as a welcoming place for people who don't yet know Jesus.

If you are interested in becoming a Host Home, or have questions about what being a Host Home entails, please email our Community Groups department at shayla@lchurches.com.

Please remember: An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the CDC, senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

By choosing to attend a Living Stones Church Host Home, you voluntarily assume all risks related in any matter to exposure of COVID-19.

Online Worship Gatherings

Will continue for those at high risk, recently sick, and for those uncomfortable with small gatherings.

Host Homes

We hope to have 70 Host Homes scattered across Reno.

Small gatherings of 10-30 people.

Host Homes will worship corporately via the online worship gatherings joining those viewing from home and the rest of the scattered church on Sundays at 10am or 6pm.

Host Homes with kids will be encouraged to worship together. During the sermon, it may be appropriate for a volunteer to take the kids outside or to another room for a children's lesson and activity.

In this phase, pastors are working on a plan to visit Host Homes for pastoral presence and care.

Community Groups

As community group leaders, we want to be sure to shepherd people in our groups, as some people may attend another Host Home. Community groups can continue to meet and/or have a weekly touch point to accomplish this.

RESTRICTED LARGE GROUP GATHERING

Phase 3 (TBD)

LIVE Broadcast Worship Gatherings

Live services will be broadcast from the church for those at high risk, recently sick, and for those uncomfortable with larger gatherings.

Sunday corporate worship will resume at the church building when we can provide a safe worship environment that exceeds the experience of the scattered church model given the necessary restrictions and accommodations that will need to be in place.

Service modifications and attendance guidelines will be in place as this phase gets closer.