



MINNEDOSA UNITED CHURCH



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September 7, 2021

Good morning,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Council of Minnedosa United Church to share an update regarding the reopening plans for worship and the use of our facility.

As you are all aware, Council has been diligent at following the Manitoba Health restrictions along with the recommendations passed down to us through the national church since March 2020 when COVID restrictions were first imposed on all Manitobans.

We have set a new policy, effective September 14th, that anyone entering our church facility for any reason shall be fully vaccinated. Following the example of the Manitoba Health directive, children will be welcome to come if they are accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult. Wearing a mask is mandatory, as well as hand sanitizing and social distancing.

We did not arrive at this position easily. We had a robust conversation at our Council meeting about how to move forward with re-opening our building. It was felt that the best way to lower the risk of spreading the virus was to limit in-person attendance to those people who were vaccinated. It is not a guarantee that the virus won't show up, however vaccinations greatly reduce the risk of spreading the virus to one another. We also spoke about our strong commitment to creating a safe place for all who enter our building. These actions will help to ensure the safety of the wider community, even if it means there are individuals who may be limited to joining us on-line.

We recognize that there are many views and concerns around vaccination or non-vaccination, but we are operating with the information currently at hand and under the direction given by health officials. We are not intending this to be a long-term policy – we are looking at it as a temporary measure.

Sunday Morning Worship

Beginning on **September 19th** we are pleased to finally be able to invite you for in-person worship!

- 1) If you would like to attend on Sunday morning, please phone or e-mail the office by Friday at 3pm to register. With social distancing, we can seat about 35 people in the sanctuary - you need to call ahead each week so that we can manage numbers.
- 2) The only questions you will be asked: how many will attend from your household and are you vaccinated?
- 3) You may arrive any time before 11 am on Sunday, and you can sit anywhere in the sanctuary there is a blue mark (on the pews or on the chairs).
- 4) Everyone needs to be masked for the whole service, and at this time there won't be any singing during the service (other than the musicians as part of the service).
- 5) You will continue to receive the link to join worship on Zoom, and we will record for Access TV.

Office Hours and Building use:

As of September 7th, the church office will be open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 3pm. Michelle and Kathy will be working from home on Thursdays.

At this time facility use will be limited to church related activities, no other user groups. For more information regarding current guidelines for weddings and funerals, please call the church office. The Food Bank will continue with their regular operations on Thursday mornings.

Julie Hutton
Council Chairperson

A prayer for these times:

This is a prayer that was written by Padraig O'Tuama in his book, *Daily Prayer*

- It is in the shelter of each other that the people live
- It is in the shadow of each other that the people live

We know that sometimes we are alone, and sometimes we are in community.
Sometimes we are in shadow, and sometimes we are surrounded by shelter.

Sometimes we feel like exiles – in our land, in our languages and in our bodies.
And sometimes we feel surrounded by welcome.

As we seek to be human together, may we share the things that do not fade:
Generosity, truth-telling, silence, respect, and love.

And may the power we share be for the good of all.

We honour God, the source of this rich life.
And we honour each other, story-full and lovely.

Whether in our shadow or in our shelter, may we live fully and well with each other.

AMEN