

Draft 3

Guidelines for In-Person Option for Seekers Worship on Zoom.

(As of November 1, 2021)

We are planning to begin an in-person option for Worship on Zoom. On November 21, 2021 we will have a trial run for this option and based on the result we may continue to offer this option until it is safe for all of us to gather in one place again.

This in-person option for our worship on Zoom which will allow some limited number of us to attend, in the Seekers sanctuary, Seekers Worship Service on Zoom. The sanctuary will be set up so the Zoom service will be projected on a large screen in the sanctuary and provide access to the attendees to pray aloud and/or read one of the readings and still be heard by everyone on Zoom. Additionally, the people in the sanctuary will also be visible to people attending from home on Zoom as one of the many participant “tiles” they see on their Zoom screen.

At least initially we will have space for 25 people to gather in the sanctuary. Because of the limited numbers we will begin with the first part of the alphabet (A-L) in the Seekers Directory by last name. Anyone who is interested and whose name appears in the first half of the directory should contact Trish (patricia.nemore@seekerschurch.org) by the Thursday prior to the Sunday they want to attend. The next Sunday we will start with the second half of the Seekers Directory (M-Z) and alternate each Sunday so that we get an even distribution. If you are in a household with different names the person with the earliest name in the alphabet will control. Example: If four members of David Dongo’s family wanted to come, they would all be considered under “D” for Dongo, even though they each have a different last name.

In preparation for implementing this in-person option for Worship on Zoom we have reviewed the materials issued by the CDC, the DC government and the most up to date information we now have regarding the SARS-CoV-2 virus and Covid -19, we have focused on the following factors as a basis for developing these guidelines:

- * The SARS-CoV-2 virus is still present and active in our geographic area, and we need to take basic precautions to prevent its spread.
- * Our congregation contains many people who have compromised or suppressed immune systems, underlying health conditions and we need to be conscious and considerate of those people who may be more susceptible to breakthrough disease.

Based on the above factors we offer the following guidelines for those attending the in-person option for Seekers Worship on Zoom:

1. At least initially we ask that only vaccinated people attend the in-person option for Seekers Worship on Zoom.

2. If you are immunocompromised or have any underlying health conditions please consult with your doctor before returning to in-person worship. Please protect yourself and wear a mask at all times.

3. If you have been exposed to the virus at work or in some other venue, please take the required precautions mandated by the CDC and take a Covid test to make sure that you are not infected BEFORE returning to worship.

4. If you are feeling ill, coughing, sneezing or have runny eyes or nose, please DO NOT come to worship. It is not always possible to tell whether you are experiencing seasonal allergies or a cold or if you have the virus, so please err on the side of caution.

5. Under current DC law everyone attending in-person worship on Zoom at Seekers is required to wear a mask at all times during the service, regardless of your vaccination status. Please bring a mask with you or one will be provided for you at the door. Please also follow basic handwashing hygiene as necessary. Hand sanitizer is provided throughout the building.

6. At least initially, we will not have congregational singing during our in-person worship service as singing has been shown to be a cause of super spreader events. In looking at the following metric for when congregations can begin singing, we realize that we are close, but are not quite there yet. <https://congregationsong.org/covid-congregational-song-update-may-18-2021/>.

7. For the foreseeable future we will not be offering coffee hour in the building after worship. We hope that people will move quickly outside after worship to have longer conversations where the airflow is better, and we are less likely to transmit disease.

8. Finally, if you are eligible for a booster vaccine, please get one as soon as possible. If you have not already been vaccinated and are medically able to do so, please get vaccinated. That is the fastest way to eradicate this disease and for us all to get back to doing things in a more normal way.