Recommendations for church gatherings during COVID-19

These recommendations take into consideration the importance of religious activities and community fellowship in promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being, while also recognizing that religious gatherings can place communities at higher risk to being exposed to COVID-19 without the proper protocols put into place to ensure public health safety.

1. Enclosed gatherings
   Enclosed gatherings should consider meeting area size to ensure social distancing can be implemented and safety measures such as good hygiene and masking should be implemented.

2. Communion
   Communion can be safely done using single-serving, pre-packaged communion.

3. Baptisms
   Baptism may be safely done with clean water; serial baptisms should be done in water heated above 23°C and treated with chlorine. Masking and hand hygiene should be used by person performing baptism.

4. Choir & singing
   Choir practices and performances should have a limited amount of participants that can safely social distance. Unmasked activities in close proximity in an enclosed area, shared food, and commonly touched items should be avoided.

5. Congregational singing
   If congregational singing must be done we recommend:
   (1) Singing outdoors rather than in an enclosed space when possible,
   (2) Maintaining a minimum distance of 6 feet between congregants, and
   (3) Wearing masks while singing, and
   (4) Singing in a quiet, subdued voice.

6. Instruments
   Use of instrumental accompaniment in worship does not appear to increase the risk of spreading COVID-19 when appropriate distancing and hygiene measures can be followed.

7. General health measures
   Social distancing, wearing of masks, use of hand sanitizer, and frequent hand washing should be strongly encouraged and implemented in all worship gatherings.