

May 22, 2020

Hello, Westend Congregation!

I hope that you and your loved ones are doing well in the midst of these strange and unusual times. I and the rest of our staff and leadership deeply appreciate the grace and patience you have shown to one another and to us as we navigate these uncharted waters. As we move through the phased reopening of church, I believe that our God *can* and *will* continue to move in powerful ways even as we move carefully and deliberately towards a full reopening.

Last week, Mike Terrell, moderator of council, sent out a tentative framework for the steps of our reopening. We are so excited that we are able to move to the next phase of our plan - gatherings of ten, or #WestendEverywhere. This step in reopening is a very old one and, in the very early ages of the church, was the foundational building block from which the Gospel spread. Some of us move into this next phase with excitement and anticipation, others with anxiety. Some will choose to participate in house churches, others will choose not to. Some will identify a group with whom to gather on their own, others will look to us for guidance. Whatever your response to this next stage, we want to bless you in your journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ and live into our God-given mission as a church. We strive to have grace and flexibility for one another as we figure things out. We hope to move deliberately, carefully, and prompted by the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we strive to be faithful to the mission God has given us. This very old model of house churches will also be the building block by which we move into the next phase of reopening, whenever that may come to fruition.

And so, we are hoping that you can help us move into this next phase in one of four ways. Please fill out [this form](#) to let us know your plan:

- 1) If you are willing to serve as a host site to gather a small group at your home for worship, please fill out this form. Hosts will be provided a guide each week to help facilitate the worship gathering. House church gatherings do not need to gather on Sunday morning if that is not the ideal time for your gathering.
- 2) If you already know a group with whom you plan to gather, we ask that you communicate that group with us. As with the first option, we will provide a guide each week to help facilitate the worship gathering and house church gatherings do not need to gather on Sunday morning if that is not the ideal time for your gathering.
- 3) If you would like to participate in a group but would prefer not to host, please let us know and we will be happy to assist you in finding a house church.
- 4) If you prefer not to gather with a small group, please let us know. We hope to make the same resources available for you that will be available to other gatherings.

Our fervent hope and prayer is that we provide opportunities to gather in community for worship, to grow together in our faith, to facilitate opportunities to love and serve one another, and to create opportunities by which people can enter into relationship with Jesus. We plan to celebrate the launch of our #WestendEverywhere House Churches in the worship service on

June 7.

We are happy to answer any questions that you may have as we move into this next stage of reopening and we eagerly anticipate the day when we can gather fully as the body of believers at Westend Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Kory

On behalf of the Ad Board