

Dear Members of ACPC

On Thursday evening the wardens and members of ACPC council joined with the Rector on Zoom to discuss the possible return to in person services in our parishes. As you will all know the province is now allowing gatherings of up to 10 people to take place, provided physical distancing is maintained and the necessary cleaning of the meeting place takes place.

The discussion was lengthy. There was a general recognition that we all want to meet again. However, it was decided that since the number limit is so low it does not make sense at this time. Several concerns which led to this decision were raised. First, we have a very high percentage of vulnerable people in our church population. Second, since only 10 are allowed to meet, it would be difficult to organize and police the gatherings. Third, the requirements to clean our buildings and the need to make washrooms available, at this point, are probably beyond our available manpower. Fourth, under the current restrictions, the experience of gathering might not be what we are hoping for. Finally, it was thought that it would be irresponsible for us to open up to in person services before we see whether the virus curve remains flattened after the initial opening up of our province.

This was an extremely difficult decision to make, made more difficult, because we cannot predict, exactly when we will be able open the church doors again since we do not know to what extent and for how long the virus will be contained. Please try to stay connected with the church community and remember that we have a weekly service online and that relevant material is posted to the ACPC website and that members of our church family regularly post thoughts and prayers to help us.

So, while we remain in one way or another isolated from one another, it is extremely important for you to recognize that the church doors may still be closed but the church is not. Please let us know about your particular needs, either by contacting either the Rector (902 752 7213 or cell: 902-921-1100) or the church office, (902 752-6422) Moreover, if you have ideas about how we might meet given the restrictions which we presently have to live by or know of needs which we are at present not addressing, please contact either the Rector or any member of your parish council. Obviously, we will once again review this decision if restrictions and conditions change significantly.

Let us pray that we may all remain patient, kind, courageous and safe through these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Chapman
Chair of ACPC