

Dear Baseline Family,

As I briefly mentioned at the outset of last week's message, a work group commissioned by the Elder board and inclusive of staff has been working to develop plans for this next phase of church life in light of the pandemic. Please see the link below where, on behalf of elders, the workgroup and staff, Mark Miller provides a summary of our plans and direction at this point. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCUheyj\\_mqQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCUheyj_mqQ)

Here is a written summary as well, along with some reflections of my own.

None of us could have imagined what these past few months have been like for our world. Lives have been turned upside-down and all of us have experienced loss to some degree. For some it has been just the disruption of our usual routine, for others it has been the loss of a job, and for some it has been the devastating loss of a loved one.

As followers of Jesus, we trust that God has never left us. He continues to walk with us through this dark valley and carry us when we have no strength of our own. We also know that the mission of the church is as clear as ever: **People need to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ and learn how to live as a follower of his so that this world is transformed.**

That mission has continued as the church buildings were closed... it continues as we do what is necessary to help our communities overcome this virus... and it will continue to strengthen even as we discern next steps towards being able to gather together in person; always as one body unified around Jesus Christ.

This week local government authorities gave churches the option to begin meeting again for in-person worship – with detailed guidelines and protocols. In addition to focusing on the key areas of ministry and church life below, we are reviewing these and exploring ways we can utilize our campus and its buildings creatively to meet together. Our goal in this and in all aspects of church life listed below is to continue to enhance ministry and church life while minimizing health risks. We want our decisions to be made through wisdom, sensitivity and faith.

**Digital and Virtual Capacity:** We've experienced tremendous fruitfulness as we've developed a virtual dimension to the many ways we can stay connected in all aspects of ministry as well as for Sunday mornings. We want to expand the capacity and quality of this medium of ministry.

**Strengthening Relational Connections:** We have experienced how important it is to connect in small group of all kinds; core groups, prayer gatherings, Bible studies, support groups etc. and how this can happen, via phone, text, facetime and through apps like "Zoom". We also know that we deeply miss seeing each other in person. We want to create an atmosphere where relationships flourish.

**Children, Youth and Families:** This is such an important part of our ministry at Baseline and we want to continue developing programs – but even more so, relationships – so that families,

children, and students flourish. We know we are better when we do this together... whether that is virtually or face-to-face.

**Congregational Care and Outreach:** Continue to expand work to care for those in our congregation across the continuum of age/stage and situation. **Outreach:** Mobilize to have greater visibility and impact in the community including with those who do not yet know Christ.

**Use (re-opening) of the Church Campus:** As stated above, we have been blessed with a beautiful location. We will follow the state and local guidelines and suspect that there will be several phases to prepare the campus for Sunday morning gatherings and other small sized gatherings throughout the week. We want to meet in-person as soon as possible when meeting in person helps to powerfully fulfill the mission of the church.

Thank you for being so faithful and committed to Baseline during this time. We ask for your prayers – prayers for wisdom and unity. We will be communicating often and keep you up to date on any changes or new developments. We also know we will need many volunteers in the areas noted above help make this next season at Baseline one of growth so please stay tuned for more details on those opportunities and needs.. As always, we welcome your thoughts, ideas and feedback.

We love you. We are praying for you. And we are so thankful to be on this journey with you.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. – 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

Donn (On Behalf Baseline Elders and Staff)