

## Summary of Highlights of Congregation Survey on Re-opening

Only 15% of people who responded to Q. 1 (“Do you feel that your community of faith is currently closed?”) said yes... however many who feel it is open and alive are still missing the sense of community that comes with being together face to face.

Approximately 70% of respondents say they do not feel we should return to worship yet – citing concerns for health and safety as the number one reason for waiting.

Several who said they believe the building should re-open sooner rather than later, share concerns re: health and safety but feel appropriate measures could be taken to allow safe opening at this time and that it was important to re-open this fall.

A major theme that most respondents expressed is the desire for face-to-face community and personal connection, even if in a limited way. While some were clear that they would not feel comfortable with any group gatherings at this time, others indicated that they would be open to smaller gatherings – either outside or in the building – so long as proper safety protocols were consistently observed. They suggested this might be a good way to meet the need to be in community while still protecting people’s health.

### Other themes that emerged include:

- Concern for community: missing the sense of community that comes with being together
  - need to support one another AND to protect one another
  - need to ensure nobody gets left out as we re-open
- Concerns re: financial impact of not returning to in-person worship – loss of donations and loss of rental income
  - Fear that we might lose members if we don’t re-open soon
    - Concern for our tenants
    - Desire to regain some sense of normalcy
  - Concerns about isolation – esp. for seniors and youth
- Acknowledgement of the heavy workload associated with cleaning protocols and concern that this must be done well
  - Fear of a second wave – want to wait and see what happens this fall before re-opening

The Transition Team is developing recommendations for the Board based on these responses for a graduated plan for re-opening the building to small group ministries.

**Watch the Church Chat for regular updates as plans evolve**