



Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Message from the Bishop: Season II Transition

In March, I requested that congregations across Colorado move to online worship and limit building use to providing essential outreach ministries. On April 28, my office presented a Seasonal Approach to In-Person gatherings. The term 'seasons' was chosen as opposed to the language common in governments. On May 22, we issued a document entitled, "A Guide for Reflection and Planning: Transition from Season I to Season II." I am encouraged to hear that our church leaders are utilizing this document and having conversations with their entire congregation about how to provide the best and safest environment for us to continue to be the Body of Christ.

While we will officially move into Season II on June 5 and begin to prepare for regathering, our ways of regathering will look dramatically different across Colorado. I still urge caution as we move forward and that we continue to use technology as much as possible. To my knowledge, no congregations have informed us that they plan to move to in-person worship on June 5. There have been a few congregations that have worked with our Canon to the Ordinary and our Disaster Director to resume in-person worship in late June. I encourage all congregations to be in conversation with our Canon to the Ordinary about their plans for in-person worship. We want to support you during this time.

I am aware that leaders have a vast number of information sources available to them at this time and lots of opinions about what should be happening; it can be a bit overwhelming. Our timelines are shaped by our core values as Christ followers. Our primary consideration is love of neighbor and caring for those who are vulnerable among us. My leadership in this matter is based on how we take the best care of one another as siblings in Christ. In an effort to provide up-to-date information, I invite clergy, wardens and lay pastoral leaders to join a 30-minute weekly informational Zoom gathering every Wednesday from 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm. In addition, we have invited congregational leaders to participate in congregational learning groups organized by average Sunday attendance. It is my hope that these groups provide a forum for us to collaborate and share best practices as we move through this season. Our Canon for Formation and your Office of the Bishop staff members are organizing affinity groups for both clergy and lay leaders to support and encourage each other in our shared ministry.

We are all learning and teaching each other how to be Church in new ways as our present reality unfolds. This season will be long, and I suspect there will be numerous transitions within this Season II. Let's learn from one another, listen to the Spirit, and boldly proclaim Christ's love to the world.

Bishop Kym+

Holy Spirit, you blessed the first disciples with the power to spread God's love throughout the world. Give us a new power to proclaim your word through the channels of technology and give us confidence in the face of change to embrace new things. Make us willing to receive that word as it enters our daily lives and immerse us in the power of



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your Providence. Guide those who send out the message and those who receive it, so that all people may come to know your truth and be renewed by your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.