



Reopening Plan: COVID-19

GREATER BIBLE WAY TEMPLE
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Plan Effective June 14, 2020

Executive Summary

On March 20, 2020, leadership made the decision to suspend in person services and move to a virtual platform after Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed an Executive Order stating. Eight weeks later, we are still being faced with challenges on meeting in person again. Restrictions on in-person gatherings have been extended several times. Greater Bible Way Temple's Ministerial Staff have responded to these restrictions by conducting livestream worship services and drive-in services, providing Zoom access to many of our youth programs, direct phone calls and have also recorded weekly lessons. Our church's Communication's Team has assisted us by emailing and providing information to our members and guests via Social Media.

On May 26, 2020, President Trump, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Governor J.B. Pritzker indicated that Illinois would likely enter Phase Three of his Restore Illinois Plan which would include the easing of restrictions on businesses and churches. Thus, we believe it is time to plan a gradual, responsible and safety conscious, plan for reopening our church campus. This will be done with government, CDC and other health professionals' guidelines in mind. Currently, we are in "Phase 1" – only meeting online. Phases are outlined below and are based on changing health trends and guidelines.

Greater Bible Way Temple leaders are committed to making each service the best it can be while still submitting to the larger scope of wisdom regarding in-person gatherings. Clearly, this situation is fluid, yet, in spite of the uncertainty, we have been working on a phased plan to reopen our campus based on the best available information. This plan prioritizes love for our neighbors by keeping people safe, showing proper, biblical respect for government authority, and demonstrates that we trust our Church family to make wise decisions. There is no question that our desire is to gather in-person, but we are committed to doing so in a safe and responsible way through a phased approach.

A phased transition allows for a measured and prudent conversion from the online only practice to in-person gatherings across the full range of church activities. Deciding how to move through the phases is complex. Although we are monitoring the situation and working in conjunction with our federal, state and local authorities, the reality is our Governor will establish recommended criteria for the transition between phases and we carefully take precaution.

GREATER BIBLE WAY TEMPLE REOPENING PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Medical professionals:

- We will work with medical professionals to develop best practices related to the health of those attending in-person worship gatherings.

General Guidance:

- Each person has a responsibility to look out for the welfare of others. If you suspect that you or a member of your family have symptoms, stay home until the period has expired and/or testing has occurred. From the CDC - symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19: Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
 - **Or at least two of these symptoms:** • Fever • Chills • Repeated shaking with chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Sore throat • Loss of taste or smell

Appropriate social distancing:

- Since the standard is 6 feet for appropriate social distancing, we will utilize that standard in calculating the distance between family units in pews, worship leaders, and all volunteers and staff.

Provide COVID-19 protection:

- We will have a limited number of masks on hand for purchase and will provide hand sanitizing stations throughout the building and at exits and entrances. We are mandating the wearing of masks until further notice.
 - Masks are to be properly worn on all parts of the church campus

Discourage personal contact:

- We will discontinue meet and greet times in worship and maintain social distancing. No physical contact such as hugs and or handshakes are to take place.

Cleaning:

- Protocols will be implemented to reduce the spread of the virus on campus.

Final Overview:

- We will continue to offer livestreaming of worship as in-person phases begin. In this way, the church provides two options as we phase out: outside worship (weather permitting), limited worship in the church and livestream.
- We will provide pre-registration for in-person worship services to limit attendees, based on our capacity with social distancing measures in place for weekly services outside of Sunday morning Worship.
 - Although we will reduce seating capacity for in-person worship services, family units should be seated together.
 - Small groups/Bible Study will continue to meet online in early phases.
 - Choir/Praise and Worship: Essential Singers
 - Anyone that has tested positive for COVID must submit a doctor's note to the Pastor, Bishop Bryan S. Allen for clearance.
 - E: bishopallen@gbwat.org

I.E.

*Church Capacity: Total Occupancy 340 (132 Socially Distanced—Appx. 34% operation)

- 160 Sanctuary with Choir (Capacity 50 (12 Choir Stand -- without pulpit and floor))
- 60 Assembly Hall (30)
- 20 Library (10)
- 60 Ephesus Hall (30)

Greater Bible Way Apostolic Temple

Bishop Bryan S. Allen – Pastor

Bryan S. Allen

Shantenae Robinson – Author

Shantenae Robinson

Dated: 06/10/2020

*(V 1.0 Subject to revisions)

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR REOPENING PLAN (KJV Version)

FELLOWSHIP

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

LOVE

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

1 John 2:10 “He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.”

1 John 4:7-11 “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

SUBJECTION TO GOVERNMENT

Rom 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only

for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

1Peter 2:13-17 “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

UNITY, GRACE

John 17:23 “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

Ephesians 4:3 “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Colossians 3:14 “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

SUBMISSION TO ELDERS

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

WISDOM

Proverbs 16:3 “3 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

Proverbs 16:9 “A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.”

Proverbs 15:22 “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”

Proverbs 21:5 “The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.”

PRINCIPLES OF CONSCIENCE

Romans 14 “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. 14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of: 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. 20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. 21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. 22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. 23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

FAQ Outline

How will we make sure people are not sitting too close to one another?

- We will utilize the CDC recommendation of 6 ft per person separation guideline. Every other pew has been blocked off for use. Family units, defined as people residing in the same home, can sit together. Parents are responsible for their children and need to ensure they are following the recommendations set by the CDC and this document.

What if more people show up than we can accommodate in the sanctuary?

- We've anticipated using the overflow rooms such as the library and assembly hall. Essentially, people would have a group livestream experience there. We can implement the 6 ft per person separation guideline fairly easily.

Where do I enter?

- We will limit access into the building to the front glass doors for the sanctuary and the east entrance doors to exit. In addition, all external and internal doors will be propped open or held open by a Greeter / Deacon, to ensure a "touchless" entry.

Should I wear a mask?

- Yes. Information from CDC on cloth face coverings indicates wearing a mask reduces the potential for transmission of the COVID-19 virus. You are welcome to wear a mask and any other personal protective equipment that you wish. We will have a limited number of masks available for purchase for those who desire to wear one. However, we recommend people bring masks with them when they enter the building.

Will the bathrooms be open?

- Yes, but will be limited to two persons at a time, particularly in Phase One. We will attempt to clean handles and surfaces throughout the morning. And, of course, signage reminding folks to wash their hands.

How will the offering be collected?

- Offering plates will not be passed between congregants. Ushers will hold offering plates at the exit doors at the end of the service to receive the offering. Offering can also be given utilizing Givelify: Greater Bible Way Temple.

Where should I park?

- There are no restrictions on where people can park. Our lot is large and spacious, however please be mindful of social distancing while exiting cars to enter the building.

What happens at the conclusion of the service?

- We know that you may want to stay and visit, however, you are requested to maintain social distancing while moving to your cars using any exit from the sanctuary.

How will I receive church newsletters, flyers and paper-based documents?

- We are utilizing electronic sharing of documents and materials through email and social/ digital platforms.

How will altar call work during this time?

- Altar workers will have masks and disposable gloves. Baptism, right hand of fellowship and baby blessings will be postponed until a later phase.

Who do I contact if I have questions I need answered before returning to church?

- Please submit questions to info@gbwat.org.

Reopening Plan: COVID-19

PHASED RESTART OUTLINE

NATIONWIDE FEATURES	PHASE 1 (MAY/JUNE/JULY)	PHASE 2 (AUG/SEPT/OCT)	PHASE 3 (NOV/DEC/JAN)	PHASE 4 (FEB/MAR/APR)
Social Distancing	Strict	Moderate	Limited	Normal
Vulnerable Populations*	Stay Home (Excl. Essential Workers/ outdoor services)	Moderate Distancing Req'd	Moderate Distancing Req'd	Discretionary
Max Groups/Crowds	Essential (Excl. Major Services)	Distanced Capacity	No Size Limit/Use Discretion	No Size Limit
CHURCH RESPONSES				
Worship Services	Online Only/ Limited Schedule Phase out	Limited Schedule/Online	Regular Schedule/Online	Regular Schedule
Connect Groups	Online Only	Online Only	Regular Schedule/Online	Regular Schedule
Midweek Services	Online/ Distanced Capacity	Distanced Capacity	Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule
Choir(s)	Online Only/ Limited Essential Singers	Some activities may return to normal	Normal Activity	Normal Activity
Office Staff	Essential	Normal Operation	Normal Operation	Normal Operation
Praise Team	Essential	Essential	Normal Activity	Normal Activity
Committee Meetings	Online Only	In-Person & Video Conf.	In-Person & Distancing	In-Person
Ministry Events	Cancelled	Some activities may return to normal	Some activities may be modified	As Scheduled
External Events	Cancelled	Previous scheduled events on; max size <Church distanced capacity	Some activities may be cancelled to accommodate other changes	As Scheduled

PHASE 1
(MAY/JUNE/JULY)

Key Focus:

Restarting worship/returning to the building

Key Issues:

- Starting with a worship-only strategy
- Limited worship attendance
- Addition of more worship services towards end of phase
- Doors to the sanctuary are propped open
- Restrooms hold a 3-person capacity. Senior restroom 1 person
- Bulletins are not passed out
- A new way of collecting the offering will be considered
- Live broadcasts continue for weekly service
- Church leaders continue to help parents disciple children in the home (Virtual Sunday School)
- Decisions made about how to safely administer baptisms and invitations for holy spirit
- Plan for entering and exiting the building must be developed
- Bible study groups continue to grow in their use of Zoom or other online meeting tools including Live Social Media Platforms

Vulnerable Populations (quoted from the White House Coronavirus Task Force)

- Elderly individuals
- Individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised (such as by chemotherapy or cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy)

PHASE 2
(AUG/SEPT/OCT)

Key Focus:

Welcoming groups back to campus

Key Issues:

- Space... physical distancing may necessitate the starting of new groups so people can practice physical distancing in smaller spaces
- Additional hours/options for groups to meet
- Church must be sanitized at greater levels than ever before
- Sunday School Classroom attendance will be limited to allow physical distancing (depending on room size)

PHASE 3
(NOV/DEC/JAN)

Key Focus:

Holiday and seasonal ministry

Key Issues:

- People continue to return to worship and Bible study groups; attendance begins to rise unless flareups of COVID-19 take place
- Budget preparation and congregational approval of next fiscal budget occurs; some ministries may have to be cut. Churches will wrestle philosophically about what continues and what ceases
- Thanksgiving/Fall Activities decision
- Prepare families to celebrate KWANZAA and New Year
- Ministry to struggling families and individuals may increase.
- Benevolence ministry may need additional volunteers to meet needs
- Be open to discussion with the congregation about any budget shortfalls, cuts, and adjustments that have happened during Phase 1 and that additional funding measures may be needed

PHASE 4
(FEB/MAR/APR)

Key Focus:

Celebration

Key Issues:

- Give people hope
- Look back and celebrate victories and progress in ministry, outreach, attendance, etc., from May 2020 onward
- Challenge the congregation to remain flexible and open to new ways of “doing church”
- Find God’s hand of deliverance and guidance and celebrate His leadership of the church
- Continue to help families disciple their children in the home
- Anticipate summer ministries such as VBS, camps, mission trips, etc.
- Decisions made about how to safely administer the Lord’s supper

