



PARADISE POINT UNITING CHURCH

Inspiring People To Wholeheartedly Follow Jesus

Dear church family,

In seeking to continue to be a God-honouring, gospel-centred and missional church in the highly disruptive season, the Church Council and Elders have begun a discernment process in regards to recommencing the in-person Sunday gathering and its practicalities.

Though the discussion is still in process, as there are many more to be considered, we would like to inform you some possibilities and invite you to be a part of this shared journey.

Included in the discussion were the following considerations:

- PPUC's Mission, Vision and Values
- Government Stage 2 Restrictions (commenced 1 June 2020)
- Government-approved Place of Worship Industry Plan (Issued 5 June 2020)
- UCAQ Synod Health and Safety Requirements (On Going)

1. Recommencing Services on 12 July

As you may be already aware of the government's COVID timeline, entering into Stage 3 on 10 July, a place of worship could have up to a maximum of 100 people at a time under the condition of the 4 square metre rule applied. *This may not occur and we may still be at the stage 2 after 10 July*, but if the government proceeds with the plan of entering stage 3 of transition, this means that up to 60 people are allowed to gather in our worship centre within space requirements as from **12 July**, on which the first in-person Sunday gathering will be held.



Considering our regular Sunday service is attended by 140 -150 on average, the possibility of

splitting the Sunday gathering into two gatherings has been discussed. During the discussion, the following two thoughts were taken into consideration:

1. According to the recent survey to attain the estimated number of people who wish to attend the in-person worship gathering, the majority of the congregants answered 'yes' despite the government's recommendation given to the COVID vulnerable people on avoiding non-essential gatherings during the pandemic.
2. We believe that a local church plays a significant role in supporting and helping spiritually and socially unrested people during this challenging time.

Provided that we enter into the stage 3, you may engage with us via the following three service options on Sundays:

- **8:30 am Service**
- **10:30 am Service**
- **Online Live Streaming Services at 8:30am and 10:30am**

Both 8:30 am and 10:30 am services will run for approximately 60 -70 minutes. Sermon delivered each Sunday will be the same at both services. The key difference between the two services is the style of worship. 8:30 am will include more hymns and liturgical prayers than 10:30 am, which will include the latest worship songs and band music. The distinctiveness of each service was discerned and decided for the PPUC in the prospect of becoming a local church that is inclusive of all generations in the reflection of the demographics of the wider community in the northern end suburbs in the Gold Coast. With regards to the morning tea after service, the government's advice is not to have it mainly so that we minimise the interaction among congregants on the premises after service. **Please note there will be no Holy Communion in August, as new services will be in the transition period.*

We will attempt to get in touch with all of you via the Telephone Pastoral Care Leaders for the next couple of weeks, in case you do not receive this E-Newsletter.

*During this season, we are committed to being a safe place of worship for all people. While we note COVID vulnerable people are integral within the life of the church, people's safety is our first and foremost priority. If you are in the "vulnerable people" category and wish to attend the service, please note the government's advice that you will attend the gathering at your own risk and our recommendation is to stay at home and engage with us through our live-streaming service.

By the definition of the government, COVID vulnerable groups are:

- Queenslanders over 70 years of age
- Queenslanders over 65 years of age with underlying health issues
- Indigenous Queenslanders over the age of 50 with one or more chronic diseases.

2. COVID Safe Church Volunteers (Sunday Services)

Over many years the ministry of our church has been shared by the gifted and faithful people of God. We have been tremendously blessed by the participation, service and generosity of each other in the church family. Also, the PPUC has been known as a welcoming, friendly church that intentionally reaches out to the wider community in its faithful response to the call of the Gospel. In this time of a transition, I invite those who call the PPUC spiritual home to continue with us to be God's people who inspire others to follow Jesus, as we together re-imagine what it means to be the God's people during this interesting season, particularly in the Sunday service context.



For us to put the government's risk management measures in place at our place of worship and implement them each week, 16 volunteers are required per Sunday (8 people per service) in addition to those who participate in leading the service. This means, in order for us to rotate the roster fortnightly, 32 volunteers are needed; if monthly, 64 are needed. There are various ways that you could be a part of the local church that makes a difference and help us be a COVID Safe church during this season. *We would love to hear from you!*

If you are interested in helping PPUC to be a COVID Safe Church, please click the link provided below to fill out the form.

(Expression of Interest Form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N8FMW5G>)

*We recognise that a place of worship is a potentially high-risk environment given the communal nature of the church activities. To ensure the safety of all attendees and the broader community, we are diligently monitoring the updates from government authorities. UCA Qld Synod was recently in a meeting with the Chief Health Officer and the issue of vulnerable volunteers was raised.

Under the Workplace Health and Safety legislation our Congregation is considered a workplace and volunteers are recognised as 'workers'. As such, PPUC has duty of care responsibilities to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers. The guiding principle of the WHS Act is that all people are given the highest level of health and safety protection from hazards arising from work, so far as is reasonably practicable. At

this time, the Government has identified people over 70 years as being vulnerable to the risks of Covid19 and so PPUC is required to conduct its activities in accordance with this directive.

The authorities are working on ways congregations can get vulnerable volunteers back to serving the church, whilst ensuring their safety. At this stage, the churches are encouraged not to invite those who are in the “vulnerable people” category to do any voluntary work. However, this may change by when stage 3 begins. If you are in the vulnerable people category, and yet interested in helping the church during the season, you can let us know by filling out the Expression of Interest Form (See the link above) That way we will be able to identify you quickly to organise a roster, when the restriction is lifted.

3. Risk Assessment



Risk management measures will be put in place to minimise the risks posed by COVID-19 to attendees at places of worship. This includes, for example, maintaining a record of identified hazards and risk management measures in the place of worship, such as: social distancing, practising good personal and hand hygiene, keeping the place of worship clean during COVID-19, routine cleaning, personal protective equipment where necessary, managing symptoms of COVID-19 and ways to manage psychosocial risks. **PPUC's Risk Management Plans are available on our website**

(https://www.ppuca.org.au/?page_id=2865) and at the church office

For further details on the PPUC's risk Assessment, please contact Allan on ajjoynson@hotmail.com

Yours in Christ

Rev. Noah Kim