



Plan for Resuming Use of the A&M Church Campus

*"Give **careful** thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways."*
Proverbs 4:26

Dear A&M Church of Christ Family,

Thank you for your continual prayers, encouragement, and service. What a wonderful church we have and what a Mighty God we serve!

The purpose of this document is to provide information related to moving closer to face-to-face gatherings and assemblies. Page one provides an overview of plans for the next two weeks. The rest of the document goes into greater detail. Please keep checking www.am.church/update for latest decisions.

Summary Update:

- We will continue worshiping in homes on Sundays for the time being. With restrictions slightly eased, you may wish to invite others to join you or worship together as a small group if it is safe to do so. Please practice appropriate hygiene as outlined later in this document.
- Small groups, ministry groups, and support groups may begin using the church building and campus for gatherings, effective May 10. Groups must call the church office at 979-693-0400 or email info@amchurch.net or log in to CCB and click on "Find a Ministry Resource" to reserve a room.
- Small groups may resume meeting if it is safe to do so. Groups are encouraged to use outside venues if possible. Groups who require larger indoor space may use the church building. Again, you must reserve a room as noted above.
- The church office re-opens on Monday, May 11, by appointment only. Hours will vary the first few weeks, so please call the church office at 979-693-0400 to ensure someone is available to let you in. If you have a specific meeting request with a staff member, please coordinate with him/her in advance.
- We will continue to update you two weeks in advance on anticipated plans.

Detailed update begins on Page Two...

Detailed Update:

Governor Greg Abbott released The Governor's Report to Open Texas on April 27, 2020 [the complete report is accessible below]. Our strong desire is to meet face to face again for times of worship, Bible study, small groups, mission trips, and so much more. We also remain committed to protect the most vulnerable in our church and community. In response, we have prayerfully considered our options and invite you to walk faithfully with us as we engage in Step One of a multi-step process for being in the same spaces at the same time.

As the Governor's Report observes:

We know now that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. **The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable** [emphasis ours].

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Churches, congregations, and places of worship should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Churches, congregations, and places of worship should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards.

Step One

Considering how Jesus responded to the most vulnerable and considering that the health and well-being of our Church Family, our guests, and the greater BCS community is of first importance, the elders of the A&M Church of Christ note that we will strictly err on the side of taking care of others. Accordingly, the following Step One plan will be used to resume physical gatherings at the A&M Church of Christ. Steps Two, Three, etc. will be updated as conditions change, and as further guidance becomes available.

Small Groups, Support Groups, and Ministry Teams

These groups may utilize the building starting on May 10. We strongly believe learning and practicing how to meet safely in a small group is the best way to gain the experience needed to eventually meet safely in a large group.

Groups who wish to use the church building MUST reserve rooms in advance by completing a room request form on CCB (click on "Find a Ministry Resource") or by calling the church office at 979-693-0400. Please check www.am.church/update for building availability schedule.

We recommend families, particularly those with small children, stay together any time they are on campus. It is extremely important that children are not left on their own. Out of an abundance of caution, the playground area will remain closed during Step 1.

Small groups may also resume meeting in homes per the discretion of the group leaders. Groups are encouraged to meet outside, weather permitting. Regardless, groups are encouraged to follow the same recommendations outlined by the CDC and the governor's report (for complete details, see pp. 39-41 of the report linked below).

The elders and staff are also working on unique gathering opportunities for times of serving, visiting, singing, sharing Scripture, etc. We will share additional details on these opportunities within the next few weeks.

Church Office

The church office re-opens on Monday, May 11. **Should you need to stop by the office, we ask that you please call first.** Should you need to speak with a specific staff member, please plan in advance with that individual. We also ask that you practice all appropriate hygiene measures as outlined below in the "ongoing best practices" section.

Church staff, in cooperation with the elders of the A&M Church of Christ, commit to follow protocol for church staff and volunteers who interact with others. This includes training, screening, hygiene, social distancing, and wearing face masks when sharing common space with others (for complete details, see p. 40 of the governor's report linked below).

Sunday Morning Assemblies

Barring a second wave outbreak of COVID-19 and subject to directives from the governor's office, we hope to hold within the next several weeks some type of limited gathering in the auditorium, though it will likely look different from what we are accustomed to. We will continue to update you as we know more.

Even though we anticipate offering face-to-face gatherings soon, we recommend all at-risk individuals (particularly members 65 and older) ***continue to participate in our online worship assemblies*** which will continue for the foreseeable future.

We will update everyone on additional protocol once we choose the first date for face-to-face assemblies. We will post an updated schedule once we finalize dates for gathering.

Bible Classes and Children's Programming

Please note - **There will be no face-to-face Bible Classes or Children's Programming on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings during Step One.** The nursery will also remain unavailable. We will continue to offer online Bible classes via YouTube and Zoom.

Our Commitment to You

As we begin gradually increasing building usage, we make the following commitments to you, your family, and our guests:

The A&M Church of Christ staff and volunteers will:

- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect seats and other items of contact between assemblies/meetings.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available.

- Place readily visible signage to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- Maintain rigorous sanitation practices like disinfection, handwashing, and cleanliness when preparing or serving anything edible.

Ongoing Best Practices

No matter whether we gather soon or several weeks from now, it is important that we continue to support federal, state, and local government efforts to stem the tide of COVID-19. Accordingly, we ask that everyone:

- Continue practicing good hygiene as recommended by the Center for Disease control by:
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wear a cloth face cover/mask when in public.
- Practice social distancing by keeping at least six feet away from others (even if you are wearing a mask).
- Stay home if you feel or show any symptoms of being sick.

Wrap Up

We thank you in advance for your faithfulness and flexibility in this most unusual of circumstances. We know the Lord continues to use our house-to-house gatherings in powerful ways and that, in his perfect timing, we will once again be able to experience the blessings of all-church togetherness.

We will update you on later phases as soon as we have additional information.

Yours in Christ,

The Elders and Staff of the A&M Church of Christ

Link to The Governor's Report to Open Texas:

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>