

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of and Visitors and Vendors to Newark United Methodist Church, Newark, DE

FROM: Newark United Methodist Church Trustees

DATE: June 2021

RE: Trustee Resolution Addressing COVID-19 (Revised)

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## **NUMC TRUSTEE RESOLUTION ADDRESSING COVID-19**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause unique and unprecedented health and administrative challenges for Newark United Methodist Church (NUMC) and the community; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that in the coming weeks, worship and regular use of Church facilities may resume at Newark United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that, as worship and regular use of Church facilities resumes, Newark United Methodist Church takes reasonable and prudent steps to protect its staff, members, volunteers, attendees and any other individuals present in Church facilities against COVID-19 exposure; and

WHEREAS, the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016 edition, charges this Board of Trustees with the supervision, oversight, and care of all property owned by the Church;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED as follows:

1. The NUMC Trustee Resolution Addressing COVID-19, dated July 2020, is hereby rescinded and replaced with the following requirements.
2. That the Board of Trustees of Newark United Methodist Church shall revise the list of rules and conditions for entry into and continued presence in church facilities, following guidelines provided by the CDC and State and Local officials; and further
3. Such list of rules and conditions shall, at a minimum, require that:
  - a. No person may enter church property if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have experienced symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 72 hours. Such symptoms include, but are not limited to, chills, shortness of breath, dry cough, sore throat, or a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) or higher;

b. No not-fully-vaccinated person may enter church property if they know that they, in the past 14 days, have been in contact with an individual who is either presumed positive or has tested positive for COVID-19;

c. Any person who has been on church property and either (1) develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days after their presence on church property or (2) learns that they have had contact with an individual who is either presumed positive or has tested positive for COVID-19 and has been present on church property within 14 days after such contact must immediately notify Robert Capiello, NUMC Business Manager, (if individual was present for a Church-related or an outside group facility use-related activity), Stephanie Yerkes, Newark Methodist Preschool Director, (if individual was present for a Newark Methodist Preschool-related activity), or Rev. Ward Mesick, Campus Pastor of Wesley Foundation, (if individual was present for a Wesley Foundation-related activity);

d. Fully vaccinated persons on church property for activities other than in-person worship service attendance are not required to mask.

e. Every not-fully-vaccinated person over kindergarten age on church property is required to wear a mask and must regularly wash hands using CDC recommended hand washing procedures, or must regularly use liquid hand sanitizer, throughout their stay on church property;

f. During attendance at in-person worship services within the church building, every person over kindergarten age shall wear a mask or face covering at all times. Face coverings are recommended for children between ages of 2 and 5. Reasonable exceptions may be provided for small children, for individuals with medical conditions whose doctors have advised against wearing a mask or face covering;

g. All not-fully-vaccinated individuals on church property shall comply with social distancing procedures, including but not limited to avoiding contact (e.g., handshaking, hugging, etc.) with and maintaining a 3-foot distance between themselves and individuals who are not their family or other individuals with whom they reside;

h. During Newark Methodist Preschool and Brennen School-Delaware Autism Program hours of operation with children present, all individuals above kindergarten age entering NUMC building areas (classrooms and adjoining hallways) where the children are located shall wear a mask.

4. A list of all rules and conditions for entry into and continued presence in church facilities shall be posted conspicuously at all entrances to the church and throughout church property. Such posting shall also include a notice that failure to comply with the posted rules will result in removal from church facilities; and further

5. Any individual who does not comply with the rules and conditions for entry into and continued presence in church facilities may be denied entry or asked to leave by any trustee, church staff member (including building monitors) or usher; prior to denying any individual entry or asking such individual to leave church facilities, effort shall be made to permit the individual to voluntarily comply with the rules and conditions; and further

6. This resolution shall remain in effect until a resolution is passed by the Board of Trustees withdrawing or amending this resolution; and further

7. The Board of Trustees shall review this resolution as needed, to ensure that appropriate precautions are taken to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all individuals who use church facilities without unreasonably limiting access.

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In addition, if the State of Delaware issues any emergency order or guidance related to COVID-19, said order or guidance shall supersede any restriction listed above.

The undersigned being the Corporate Secretary of Newark United Methodist Church hereby certifies that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution which passed at the June 14, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

*William T. Stoneman*

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Secretary, Newark United Methodist Church