

# ON BEING FAITHFUL

GUIDELINES FOR THE WAY AHEAD IN THIS SEASON OF COVID-19

*"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"  
– The Baptismal Covenant, The Book of Common Prayer*

The Diocese of Southeast Florida has issued guidelines that will govern how Bethesda moves forward through this time of COVID-19. The bishop will need to approve our plans at every stage.

The diocese encourages us to think of the process we will follow as a movement through a series of seasons.

**These seasons are fluid.** We might move into Season 2, and then back to Season 1 for a time. Even within each season, we'll make incremental changes as the data evolves and as we learn from experience.

**This will take time.** We can't simply open our doors and go back to the way things were. As the Church, our first priority must be to care for the vulnerable.

**The process will be local and data-driven.** Bethesda might move into a new season sooner or later than its neighbors.

## SEASON

### Community Conditions

- Widespread community spread of the virus; local cases are increasing
- Overtaxed health system
- Shortages of medical and protective supplies
- Limited virus testing
- Limited contact tracing

# 1

### Church Requirements

- Online worship
- Online meetings, adult and youth formation, and other group gatherings
- Church buildings closed to the public

## SEASON

### Community Conditions

- A sustained reduction in new local cases for at least 14 days
- Local hospitals can treat patients without a crisis standard of care
- Everyone with symptoms can be tested
- Contact tracing and active monitoring are in place
- Systems are in place for targeted quarantines as needed

# 2

### Church Requirements

- Limited attendance, with reservations required
- Six-foot distance between households
- Face masks required
- Temperature checks before entry
- A visitor log will be kept
- No congregational or choral singing
- No in-person coffee hour or meals
- Adult and youth formation remain online

## SEASON

### Community Conditions

- No community spread of the virus
- Mass vaccination
- Mass therapeutic availability
- Mass testing for infection and immunity
- Lifting of physical distancing

# 3

### Church Requirements

- Resumption of sustainable normal activities, with a new awareness of our connections and vulnerabilities
- Many activities remain available online to allow those who cannot join in person to participate