

Bethel Church

"Responding to the Heart of God; Transforming the Heart of the City, the Nation, and the World."

08 JULY 2020

STATEMENT ON RE-OPENING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BETHEL CHURCH, KINGSTON

This has been an extraordinarily difficult time for many of you. The staff, elders, and board at Bethel share this, and can't wait to see you in-person again. Thank you for participating in the recent survey and town halls. It was clear how many of you miss community and live worship. However, following a meeting of the board, we have now established two criteria that must be met before our church can reopen:

1. Firstly, staff and lay-individuals must construct a comprehensive plan for re-opening, moving from being staff-led to including a larger and broader team of people who have experience with similar processes, and who have time and interest to give. This involves developing a team of volunteers to help prepare the building so it is safe and meets the health standards laid out by the Public Health authorities.
2. Secondly, we must also ensure high quality, permanent online broadcasting of our Sunday services to allow the "70% at a time", who won't be able to attend the services in any given week, to be able to participate in spite of it, without creating a double workload, i.e. a YouTube recording and a live service, which will involve additional recording equipment and set-up, with the attendant building of new technical and volunteer teams.

While, like you, we are disappointed that we cannot just simply "re-open", we believe that the two criteria above are what will allow us to reopen well, by prioritizing your health and safety, and the continued online community we have been developing.

We want to be clear: Bethel Church has never actually "closed" – God has simply moved our work to home and out into the community to help whenever possible. He has done great things through our online presence and we fully plan to continue gathering together online, and developing innovative ways to be a community of believers who are "Responding to the Heart of God; transforming the heart of the City, the Nation and the World."

We continue to welcome your questions and feedback, and of course, your help! To help with the two initiatives mentioned above, contact Pastor Mark at mark@bethelkingston.com.

Steve Dickey, Chair
On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Bethel Church, Kingston

314 Johnson St., Kingston, ON K7L 1Y7
613-542-2990 | www.bethelkingston.com