

May 21, 2020

Dear friends,

The Emergency Operations Planning Team (Karen Seymour-Ells, Joan Doyle, Sarah Ruban, Steve Cooper and myself) of DuPage UU Church has made some recommendations for safeguarding the health of our members and decisions on when people can physically enter the DUUC building. Rather than continuing to set dates for opening, and then having to rescind that, we have decided to link our decision-making process to the State of Illinois' "Five Phase Plan."

(<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-regional-dashboard>). The DUUC Board of Trustees voted to accept this recommendation. We are currently in Phase 2; when Illinois moves to Phase 3, we will share parameters for how small groups can begin to gather again, following safety precautions.

By now, many of you have heard that our denominational president, the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, and her team have released recommendations, as well. Among them is the statement that our churches may need to remain physically closed through **May 2021**. Of course, actual decisions about this will be made on a local and regional level, depending on how the pandemic is currently effecting the local area. Like many, I was shocked by the idea that we may need to stay closed for another year. It is difficult to imagine how to conduct church operations and programs virtually, for such a long period. Many of our committees and the board, as well as staff, have begun to imagine ways we can all stay connected with each other, and to continue building our community, in such an environment. You will soon hear about Virtual Coffee Hour, new Adult Enrichment opportunities, a continuation of Youth RE programming through the summer, and more.

We are trying, and we are grateful to you who have stayed connected with our community and continue to support our work. As I've said several times in recent weeks, we need each other more than ever, during this time of isolation.

Wishing you well,  
Rev. Mike