

RCMUC - "phased re-opening questionnaire" results

September 30th 2020 – 52 respondents

The preamble to this survey is listed at the end of these results. Of particular importance in the preamble: Alberta is still in “stage 2” of the re-launch, and the requirements/strong recommendations for faith communities are the same as they were in June.

In each case, the PERCENTAGE of responses is in the left-hand column and the actual number of responses is in (parentheses)
Responses are listed in descending order of popularity.

1. Are there indicators you would want to see before you return to attend a worship service at Church? (select all that apply) – 49 responses

- 76% (37) the number of coronavirus cases in Canmore is very small
- 61% (30) the number of coronavirus cases in Alberta has decreased
- 41% (20) the Provincial government has instituted phase 3
- 35% (17) most physical distancing recommendations have been lifted
- 25% (12) public singing allowed
- 12% (6) other - indicate at end of survey
- 6% (3) social gatherings, e.g. coffee/fellowship time with shared food, allowed

2. We are investigating other spaces in Canmore which would be large enough to host a Sunday worship service while 2m distancing is still required. Which of the following best describes your opinion? – 48 responses

- 33% (16) I have no preference - I will not be worshipping indoors in any venue at present
- 25% (12) I would prefer to all be in one larger room, at an alternative indoor venue in the community
- 21% (10) I would prefer to Worship at our Church (some people in sanctuary and some in hall, maximum 40 people)
- 21% (10) I have no preference - I am looking forward to worshipping indoors, wherever

3. Another way to approach our return to worshipping at the Church sanctuary, would be to have very simple prayer services (30 minutes or less) until such time as we could resume our regular pattern of worship. These would feature scripture, prayer, a brief refecton, and quiet music but no singing. Which of the following best describes your response to this? – 50 responses

- 40% (20) I am not likely to attend such a service
- 34% (17) I would attend such a service occasionally
- 26% (13) I would attend such a service regularly

4. If I came to a worship service at the Church and had to sit in Gordon Hall, I would be... - 48 responses

73% (35) OK with this
27% (13) not happy

5. As we investigate various options, we may need to consider options outside of Canmore. Would you be willing to travel to a location in Banff to worship as the RCMUC congregation? – 49 responses

53% (26) no
47% (23) yes

6. While present COVID restrictions are in place, it takes many extra volunteers to attend to the safety protocols at a worship gathering, indoors or outdoors... which may mean that our in person gatherings will be a couple of times per month, rather than every Sunday. If you are willing to volunteer on Sundays, please indicate below, and type your name at the end of the survey. – 21 responses

(19) I will help with outdoor services... (15) I will help with indoor services

7. Given that communion is a time to "commune together," how would you feel about a communion service where you bring your own "wine and bread"? (there are many challenges to "serving" communion at this time...) – 49 responses

53% (26) I am willing to do this, to be able to have communion sooner
27% (13) I would prefer to wait until we can have communion by more "regular" means
20% (10) I am not likely to do this under any circumstances

8. Regarding Outdoor Worship, please choose all of the following responses that apply to you. – 49 responses

76% (37) I plan to attend the Outdoor service on September 27
76% (37) I would be interested in attending a third outdoor service on Thanksgiving Sunday, Oct 11
61% (30) I attended the first Outdoor service on September 13
43% (21) It is good to be together outdoors but I am not ready to gather indoors
2% (1) I will not be attending outdoor services
2% (1) I will not be attending outdoor or indoor services at this time

9. Are you in favour of attempting "house churches" / small groups of 10-15 people to get back to meeting together physically until it is safe to do so at our full size? – 48 responses

77% (37) no
23% (11) yes

10. When it is safe to gather, which best describes your attitude toward returning to a worship service indoors? – 51 responses

51% (26)	I will return the first opportunity we have
28% (14)	it may be quite a while before I return
22% (11)	I will wait for several additional weeks before I attend
0% (0)	I doubt that I will resume in-Church worship at all

11. In order to limit attendance and not turn anyone away at the door, how do you feel about registering for a service ahead of time on an online platform like EventBrite, or phoning the Church to register for attendance by Wednesday evening each week? – 46 responses

85% (39)	happy
15% (7)	not happy

12. when we have resumed in-person worship, will you be most likely to attend services in person, or online? – 50 responses

44% (22)	in-person when able, online on other Sundays
26% (13)	in-person
16% (8)	both {online and in-person}
14% (7)	online
0% (0)	neither

13. In order to provide in-person and online services, we will need a small "tech team" to record services and make sure the TVs are working. Are you interested in joining such a team? If so, please indicate below as well as your name and email at the bottom of this questionnaire.

87% (41)	no
9% (4)	yes, I'd like to learn
4% (2)	yes, I have those skills right now

any other comments or questions? Thank you AGAIN for your time!!

- Limited experience for the above
- Appreciate the efforts made by all to keep the church community together.
- A thoughtful survey. Thank you for creating it.
- At this time, why not gatherings of 10 or less in the sanctuary for 30 minutes, with protocols in place, 3 or 4X per week with prayer, readings, perhaps a reflection, and a circle of trust and care... could be hugely effective and safe as we strive toward a

return to normalcy. Registering for these gatherings required. Perhaps one of these types of gatherings could be directed to families with children ...a collaborative Sunday school?

- I want to wait for a vaccine before returning to in church service But will continue to support the church financially
- Your protocol sounds spot on, but I'm not yet comfortable going into any building. As anxious as I am to sit in the newly refurbished sanctuary, I'll have to wait until.....?? We need to push through this, but I'm very old. Need to let less vulnerable do the pushing...
- I am quite nervous about indoor services especially with Covid 19 cases rising again in Alberta. The outdoor service was great but I realize weather limits that. The on-line service has worked well for me.
- Thank you for working so very hard to get us back together. We are blessed to have such dedicated leadership.
- I am away and not back until December, so I will see where we are then!!!
- given the limited capacity of the church, I will likely limit my onsite attendance for the foreseeable future so priority can be given to those who can't access online options or are feeling isolated at home
- Evensong could be done in person! Never more than 18 people present. Would be great!
- What would be done if, during an in-person service, someone should start coughing? This makes me uneasy at the best of times.
- My work schedule makes me unreliable as a volunteer and as an attendee
- This questionnaire is difficult because I am not willing to attend during current or worsening conditions. I have answered the attendance questions as what my responses would be when conditions improve and/or I become more comfortable. Feel free to delete these questions if I shouldn't have answered them. Please keep the YouTube services. They are wonderful.
- It will be too cold by Thanksgiving to go out doors. Lets find a bigger hall Seniors or Banff or ??? Do something positive.
- I will have to assess whether or not I attend in person as per number of cases and whether or not I will have to travel for family reasons. I really go on a day to day basis.
- This is a joint submission from the two of us.
- I truly appreciate being a member of this congregation and miss Sunday services. I would definitely have attended the 2 outdoor September services but was away from Canmore in Ontario. I am back next week and will attend any outdoor activities but no indoor ones until covid is more or less eradicated from Alberta
- At this time we are not comfortable returning to inside services, but are definitely looking forward and head to the time when this will be possible and comfortable for us.
- I would wait until a vaccine is available.
- Question one I would feel comfortable with all the steps outlined but have one metre distancing. I would be happy to only be able to register twice a month online for Sunday worship using Gordon Hall as well. This would have to be on an honour system. I will watch the online service on other Sundays. Very simple Christmas services could be held twice on Dec 23 and Dec 24.

PREAMBLE

In June of this year, shortly after Alberta entered "phase 2" of the plans to reopen businesses & public place (including places of Worship), we asked you some questions. We're still in phase 2 - still needing to keep 2m distancing - but as fall & winter approach, would like to ask you some of the same questions and some new ones, to help us determine a healthy and helpful approach to returning to in-person, indoor worship.

Current requirements/strong recommendations for in-person Church gatherings remain the same:

- physical distancing at all times, which would allow approximately 18 people in the sanctuary
- single point of entry, separate point of exit, supervised distancing at entry and exit
- singing is not allowed
- infants and very young children must remain with their parents
- no circulating of offering or communion plates
- no sharing of food or beverages in social times before/after worship
- no use of hymn books; any handouts would need to be disposed of immediately after the service or taken home with the attendee
- increased cleaning and sanitizing requirements
- masks to be worn in indoor public premises, as per Canmore town bylaw
- masks to be made available for all who do not have a mask with them
- people with cold/flu symptoms, or who have been travelling outside Canada in the past 14 days, or who have had close recent contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19, must stay at home

Please help us continue our planning toward in-person, indoor worship. Thank you for your time!

** all questions below make the assumption that the above guidelines will be carried out **

Thank you to Trinity Bible Church, Canmore, whose recent survey helped shape the initial questionnaire