



29 May 2020

To All Ministers & Church Council Chairs

Adjustment to Emergency Management Act: Places of Worship

WA Roadmap Phase 3

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Further to my letter of [11 May 2020](#), which highlighted the changes to the official guidelines as they relate to Places of Worship I am pleased to advise the new guidelines for the WA Roadmap Phase 3 as they pertain to the Uniting Church in Western Australia.

As a background, [Phase 1](#) of the WA Roadmap to recovery was identified as commencing on [27 April 2020](#), and, amongst other things, allowed non-work groups of up to 10 persons to gather. [Phase 2](#) commenced on Monday 18 May 2020. Basically it increased the size of groups able to gather, allowed for some dining out, extended regional travel and allowed for Places of Worship to reopen in a modified way.

In [Phase 3](#) which will commence from **Saturday 6 June 2020**, Places of Worship are permitted to open with a capacity limit of 100 people per single undivided space with up to 300 people in total for the entire venue. The people required to conduct the service (minister, choir, AV operators etc) are additional to the numbers quoted above.

Within the capacity limits noted above, there should now be 2 square metres of floor space per person (versus 4 square metres previously). For 100 people to be in the same space, the space will need to be 200 metres square. All persons should nonetheless continue to practice physical distancing by keeping 1.5 metres from other people from other households (that is to say, people from the same household are not limited by the 1.5 metre distancing rule and may thus sit together). It is also now possible to use the worship space and hall space simultaneously provided that each separate space complies with the capacities and distancing noted above.





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This will allow most of our congregations to have worship service in their building from Sunday 7 June 2020 and we can thus begin the process of reconnecting with each other, and together with God.

It is still necessary to complete a COVID Safety Plan and have it available for inspection by authorising officers. Current plans should be updated for the new capacities. Rev Dr David Ferguson, the Presbytery Officer, will continue to be available to address specific questions.

As we return to the commitment of worshipping together, we do need to reflect on what we have learned about God, worship, gathering together and being apart. We have seen and heard of many different and positive experiences. May we use all of these to guide us into being better together as a community of Christ.

Yours sincerely

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