



24 June 2020

To All Ministry Agents & Church Council Chairs

Adjustment to Emergency Management Act: Places of Worship - WA Roadmap Phase 4

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Further to my letter of 29 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 4 as they pertain to the Uniting Church in Western Australia.

In Phase 4 which will commence from 11.59pm, **Friday 26 June 2020**, Places of Worship are permitted to open with a capacity limited only by the 2 square metre rule. The people required to conduct the service (minister, choir, AV operators etc) are additional to the capacity limit.

Your buildings should have a notice of capacity limits posted near the door. This capacity is based on one person per square metre. You would then need to simply halve that capacity to give you the current capacity limitation.

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). Obviously good personal hygiene should continue to be observed always.

You should also update your COVID-19 Safety Plan (to note the new capacity limit) and have it available for inspection by authorising officers.

We will now assume that congregations are now familiar with the various processes and Church Councils and staff will be able to determine their own compliance, however Rev Dr David Ferguson, the Presbytery Officer, will continue to be available to address specific questions if required.





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While the limitations to prevent COVID-19 infections are easing, we are not simply re-entering into the world which existed prior to the pandemic. We have learned to worship God together through different media, we have developed new ways of connecting with each other and we have begun to practice our long held understanding that the church is more the people than the building. We need to continue to “*think out of the box*” of how we live and make mission as a Christian community in a largely secular world.

God Bless

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