



Advisory Opinion
“Re-Opening Sanctuaries for Worship”
Presbytery of Chicago – Presbytery Coordinating Commission
Approved June 2, 2020

As your Session deliberates a forward plan for resuming corporate worship in church sanctuaries, the Presbytery Coordinating Commission (PCC) of Chicago Presbytery offers this advisory opinion.

Based on advice from the "Restore Illinois Plan" and our PC(USA) polity and policies, we recommend that church Sessions take action to continue online virtual worship services and/or “drive in” worship services at least through Sunday, August 30, 2020, and refrain from physically gathering in church sanctuaries until after this date.

We hope that by this point in time conditions will be safe to allow churches to begin worshipping in person again.

Sessions are urged to consult these sources as they make decisions for their congregations on this important matter:

- Illinois Department of Public Health webpage to review [“COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship”](#) , document issued May 28, 2020 or as updated
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) advice on [“Returning to Public Worship – Theological and Practical Considerations”](#)
- The advice issued by the Presbytery of Chicago, [“Some Questions to Consider”](#) dated June 1, 2020

This advice is subject to future revision.

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