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September 16, 2020

Dear Progressive Baptist Church member(s) and family,

I am sending this letter to inform you about the next phase of ministry for Progressive Baptist Church. I believe that it is time for us to return to our church building and begin in person worship. I have not made this decision lightly, but only after much prayer and seeking the will of the Lord. I am excited about us coming together in corporate worship and know that some of you will have to pray and discern what is best for you and your family.

To prepare for re-entering the church we will have a parking lot service at 11 a.m. on both September 20th and September 27th, 2020. We are asking everyone to come and remain in your car and receive worship through your car radio. We plan to have our first service in the sanctuary on October 4, 2020. During this time we are beginning with one service that will begin at 11 a.m.

Your leadership has been working to make our church re-entry as safe as possible. A team of our ministers (Revs. Patricia Lewis, Annette Vogel, Freddie Becker, Marc Thigpen and Mary Owens) reviewed multiple guidelines for reopening churches, and the Minnesota and CDC recommendations to develop our protocol. They along with members of our trustee board (Deacons Michael Ricks, Freeman Roquemore, Olester Benson, Ruth Ann Eide) and Sister Dedra Dunevant-Perryman have fine-tuned our protocol, working first under Christ's command that we love one another and also using the best available data.

You will notice that we will not be using the building as we previously did. You will have to preregister for service. We are preparing a registration that you can do online and we will be prepared to help those who do not have access to or have limited technology skills. Everyone who is over 2 years old will be required to wear a mask. We will use a screening questionnaire

(you have probably already completed one of these if you have gone to a doctor's visit or to your dentist or even to the spa) and we will take your temperature with a thermometer that does not touch your skin. You will have to sanitize your hands and movement will be directed so that you can only enter one way and leave one way.

We will all have to change our behavior. The screening will require time and leadership will have to arrive one hour before service. We expect everyone else to arrive at least 30 minutes before service. I expect that as we get used to this and become more efficient, it will take us less time.

You will be hearing more in the near future. We are also putting this information on the church's website: progressivebaptistchurchmn.com. I am excited to worship with you all again. I have missed your presence. I know that some of you will be unable to worship in person. Speak with your doctor about this and know that we respect your decision, and we love you. We will continue to provide the service online as well as in person.

For the next steps, you will receive a survey. Please complete it as it will let us know who will be returning for worship in the church building. As I previously stated, I truly believe in my spirit that God is telling me it is time to return, time for us to join together and lift our praises and our prayers to our Lord. It is time for us to hear and respond to the Holy Scriptures together!

God bless you and I love you,

Your Pastor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Stephen A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.