



GRACE GATHERING

# Re-Opening FAQ

MAY 16, 2020

The elders and staff want to say thank you for being so supportive throughout this entire process. And we are especially thankful for your support as we begin to open things back up. We know we have people represented in our congregation who believe things should be opening up more quickly in our community and others who feel it should be more slowly. The below update attempts to approach this re-opening in a measured, safe, respectful, and opportunistic way for all people in our body. We love you all and cannot wait until we are gathered together again.

## 1. What are the four phases of re-opening for Grace Gathering?

### Phase one (current)

- Some will continue watching online privately in home
- Some will host watch parties online with others in homes

### Phase two (May 31)

- Some will continue to stay in phase one
- We will offer watch parties at all three sites (see below for explanation)

### Phase Three (TBD)

- Some will continue to stay in phase one
- We will resume live services at all sites with all Sunday morning ministries besides children ministry

### Phase Four (TBD)

- Some will continue to stay in phase one
- We will resume full capacity live services Sunday morning with all ministries



## 2. What is a watch party at each site?

While we maintain our online service for Sunday mornings, starting May 31<sup>st</sup> we will provide an opportunity to watch the service on the big screen at our sites with others. This allows those who feel comfortable to reconnect with others and not feel confined to their home. We will encourage masks and social distancing in these venues.

## 3. Why watch party and not live services right away?

Watch parties are an interim step between watching from home and fully live services at each site. This will be helpful for a couple of key reasons: a) it initially reduces the number of leaders and volunteers needed for a fully live service at all sites, and b) it allows us to evaluate the rate by which people feel comfortable attending Sunday services again.

## 4. What will a watch party exactly look like?

Chairs will be scattered around the room in stacks of four. Families will be able to cluster their chairs together in the room and practice social distancing per family unit. We will have a service leader on stage that will welcome everyone, give announcements, and lead the response time at the end. The sermon and the worship time will come from the screen as people in both homes and at the buildings experience the same service. These two elements of sermon and worship will be recorded ahead of time so that sites can maintain their normal service hours (Central at 9:30a, North at 9:45a, East at 10:00a). The buildings will maintain suggested protocols of cleaning and sanitation.

## 5. How long will we continue online services?

We know that those who are higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds, and we also know there are others who may not feel comfortable coming to Sunday morning services for some time yet. Therefore, in support of these folks in our congregation, the elders have made a commitment to offering online Sunday morning services at least for the next 12 months. We want everyone, no matter what their situation, to have access to our Sunday services. We know making this commitment will require more time from staff and a financial cost. Please see answer to the following question for those who are willing to help offset this financial cost.



## 6. How can I help financially?

Because the economy has been negatively impacted by this pandemic, financial giving to churches all over the country has been impacted as well. While we have seen giving go down at Grace, we are so thankful for the consistency of giving by our church body. While our budget is more restricted, there are two key areas where families could give above their regular giving to help during this time. One is for helping families who have financial needs in the necessities. The other is to help with our commitment to offering online services for the next 12 months. We anticipate the financial need to make this happen over the next year in both staffing hours and extra equipment needed will be \$12,000. If you go to our online giving on our website or app, you can see where to donate for either of these two areas\* if you are willing to give beyond your tithe to help meet these needs. We are so grateful.

*\*The options are listed under "Fund" (where you would choose your site) as "Benevolence" and "Online Services" after you input your amount and sign in.*

## 7. When is the East site building re-opening for other groups and ministries?

We are currently putting together new cleaning and sanitizing protocols for our building to keep it as safe as possible. While certain areas will remain closed off for the time being, groups and ministries can use the building beginning May 26th. However, any building use will need to be scheduled ahead of time and cleared with Erin Paris. You can email her with questions or to make reservations at [eparis@gracegathering.com](mailto:eparis@gracegathering.com).

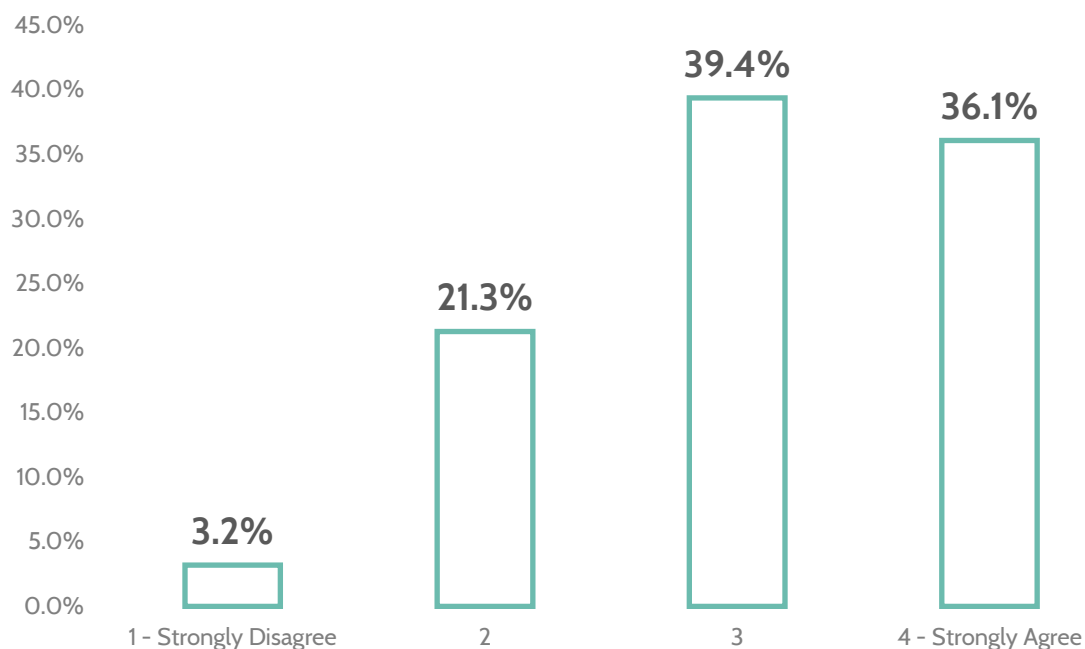
## 8. What were the results from our churchwide survey?

*The following pages show the results from the 310 total responses we received. Again, thank you for sharing your prayerful input.*



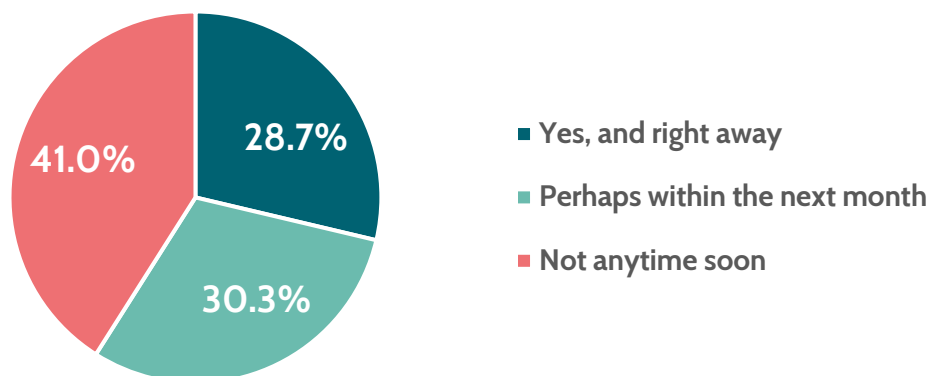
## QUESTION 1

Have our online gatherings helped you in your relationship with God, as well as feeling connected to the church and one another during this time period?



## QUESTION 2

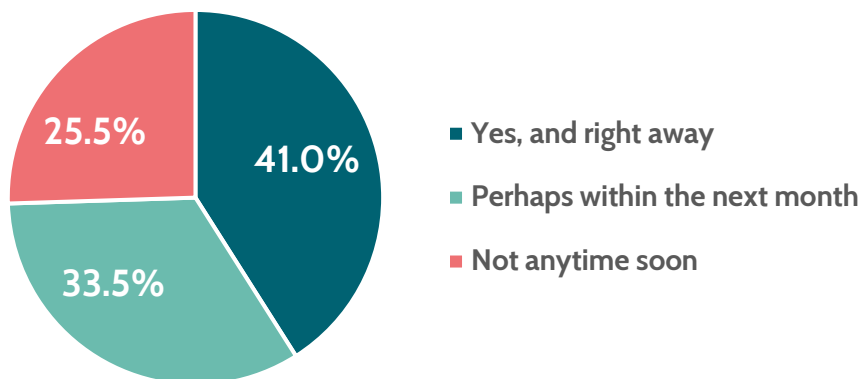
Would you feel comfortable hosting or attending small group watch parties in homes?



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### QUESTION 3

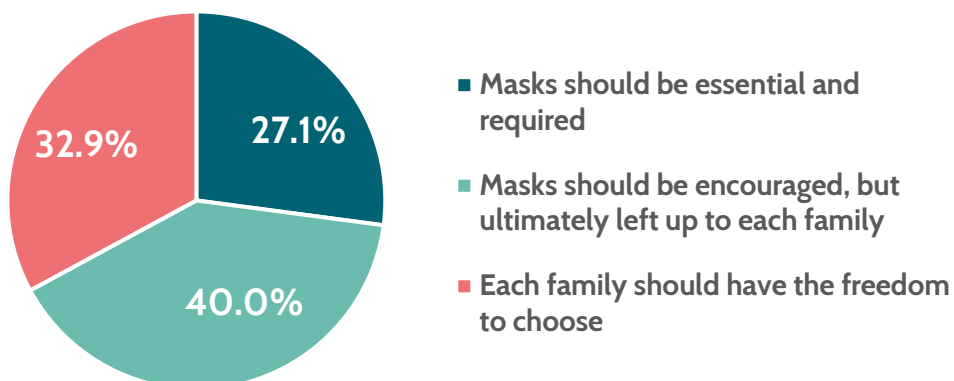
If we hosted larger watch parties of our online services at our site locations (so that we would not need a full volunteer staff for ministries), would you feel comfortable attending?



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### QUESTION 4

If we hosted larger watch parties of our online services at our site locations, do you think we should require masks to be worn?



## QUESTION 5

When we return to regular live multisite gatherings, would you feel comfortable utilizing the nursery and children's ministries? (Only those with kids please answer.)

