

Rationale for the Session Motion
May 26, 2020

The Session motion is written with attention to:

- 1) the metrics related to COVID-19, which are still not declining in SC;
- 2) the recent fact that three churches that observed safety protocols still had cases of COVID-19;
- 3) the number of visitors from elsewhere in the U.S. who would potentially worship w/us;
- 4) the demographics of our congregation (our high number of members 65+);
- 5) the number of members who usually worship with us at this time of year (roughly 475-500) and attempting to accommodate some percentage of them in one worship service in three separate spaces or in multiple worship services;
- 6) the logistics of managing 5) such as sanitation, masks, entry, egress (we can do this, but there are logistical hurdles in a congregation especially of our size);
- 7) the fact that our online worship numbers have been very good (better than our usually worship at this time of year);
- 8) the fact that we're able to include more members and diversity of music in our online worship services;
- 9) the fact that we wouldn't be able to sing (chorally or congregationally) in the sanctuary;
- 10) the fact that we would need to social distance ten feet inside the church facility (e.g., Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall);
- 11) the expense of trying to worship outside in Hover Park (behind our church);
- 12) the number of volunteers needed when we reopen and our high number of members 65+.