Eagle Ridge United Church

**SMALL GROUP MEETING POLICY DURING COVID-19**

Governed by: Official Board

Adoption Date: September 7, 2021

Modification Date:

**POLICY:**

1. For those who are **eligible for vaccination** against COVID-19:

Those attending group meetings at Eagle Ridge United Church must adhere to the following:

* + 1. All participants who are eligible for vaccination against COVID-19 must have at least their first dose of a vaccine until October 24, 2021, at which point they must have both doses.
    2. Conduct health check using the questions below. Anyone who exhibits any of the symptoms must not attend in person.
    3. Wear masks when inside the building.
    4. Use the best ventilated space available.
    5. Maintain as much physical distancing as is practical for the group and the space.
    6. Refrain from eating and drinking near others (both require a lowering of masks).
    7. Avoid loud vocalizations, including singing and yelling, in order to reduce aerosolization.
    8. Whenever possible, offer a Zoom option for those who are unable to attend because of illness or the need to isolate.

1. For those who are **ineligible for vaccination** against COVID-19:
   1. Those who are **12 and older** but who have a medical condition which prevents them from getting vaccinated, we regrettably have to ask that they refrain from small group gatherings during this transitional time so as to protect them and others. We will do our best to include them through technologies like Zoom. They are urged to contact their group leader in order to explore the possibilities for them.
   2. Those who are **11 and under** are not yet eligible for vaccination. Groups for this age may meet as long as they carefully observe the following:
      1. Their parents/guardians are aware that they will be taking part.
      2. Conduct health check using the questions below. Anyone who exhibits any of the symptoms must not attend in person.
      3. Wear masks when inside the building.
      4. Use the best ventilated space available.
      5. Maintain as much physical distancing as is practical for the group and the space.
      6. Refrain from eating and drinking near others (both require a lowering of masks).
      7. Avoid loud vocalizations, including singing and yelling, in order to reduce aerosolization.
      8. Whenever possible, offer a Zoom option for those who are unable to attend because of illness or the need to isolate.

**RATIONALE:**

* As a community based upon the values and practices of the kingdom of God, we place the health and safety of our members and participants above all else.
* Recognizing that no in-person meeting is without risk, we believe that at this time the risk is low enough to permit our groups to gather as long as we use a multi-layered approach to disease prevention.

**HEALTH CHECK:**

* The Health Check document must contain the following:
  + Group name and date
  + Names of participants
  + The initials of the participants to attest that
    - they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19;
    - (before October 23rd, 2021) they have been at least partially vaccinated for a minimum of two weeks;
    - (as of October 24th, 2021) they have been fully vaccinated for a minimum of two weeks.