

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is allowed in Phase Two?**

At this time, the conference recommends no indoor worship on campus for the foreseeable future, particularly as long as the percentage of positive Covid-19 tests and hospitalizations are not declining. Continue hosting online, drive-in, or outdoor worship services while following the [conference](#), [CDC](#) & [state](#) guidelines and observing physical distancing rules. Most experts recommend no congregational singing at this time.

**Q. If we hold worship against the Conference suggestions, will my local church be held liable?**

Yes. Every church assumes the risk of opening no matter what procedures or guidelines they are following. The goal is to reduce risks, both to health and to legal liability. The more you document cleaning, policies, and processes, for both employees and public, the better off you are and the more you reduce your legal exposure. The more governmental mandates you follow, the better off you are as well. We encourage you to read this [risk assessment](#) from our conference chancellor.

**Q. When can we have indoor worship?**

Each local church will answer this question differently based on your ability to assure that those who attend can do so safely. Please do not rush this decision, but thoroughly work out a plan for protecting your congregation and visitors.

**Q. Will the Conference give me appropriate lead time for re-opening, so that churches can work with their teams to create a schedule?**

You are being given that time now. Please form a team and begin to use the resources that have been provided to you to plan for how you will re-open safely and faithfully.

**Q. Who is ultimately responsible for forming a team to plan for re-opening?**

The Pastor and the Chair of Trustees

**Q. Can small groups of less than ten meet in the church building?**

Yes, as long as they are aware of and abide by building use, cleaning policies, and social distancing guidelines.

**Q. What about preschools or childcare?**

Generally, most of our preschools, childcare, children and youth ministries follow the public school guidance which is closed through the end of the school year. [The CDC has strict guidelines](#) for limited reopening of preschools and childcare to assist with children of essential workers. This is not permission for a blanket re-opening of programs for youth and children. Summer camps, youth trips, VBS, etc. do not fall under the “limited re-opening of facilities for essential workers.” In addition, the CDC guidelines for that limited re-opening are quite rigorous.

Our recommendation is that churches not hold in-person summer programming for children and youth due to the difficulty of ensuring compliance with the CDC guidelines and the challenge of having kids practice social-distancing. And most summer camps, youth mission trip agencies, etc., have cancelled their in-person summer programs. We do encourage creative online, at-home options.

**Q. I am a church childcare worker who has felt that my concerns about re-opening have been dismissed. What should I do?**

First, share your concerns in written form with your supervisor, the Preschool director, the pastor and the chair of the Staff Parish committee or otherwise follow the church’s HR procedures. If that doesn’t resolve the issue, share your concerns by email with your [NC Childcare Consultant](#).

**Q. Is the conference making requirements or recommendations?**

The Conference is making strong recommendations undergirded by a desire to love God and love our neighbors. Please know that they are shared with a focus on what’s best for the common good and the greater community.

**Q. Do these guidelines relate to groups who are requesting to use our buildings?**

These guidelines should relate to all group who use your church facilities. Local Church Trustees, guided by your “Re-opening Team” need to make decisions regarding outside groups using the building. These groups need to be provided with specific instructions for what’s expected before, during, and after they meet.