



AGAPE SLO

Plan to Resume Public Gatherings

As one of the churches charged by God to be ambassadors and gatekeepers on the Central Coast, I believe we have shared Biblical and civic responsibility when pursuing our desire to reopen public gatherings. Central Coast churches have generally been united in our approach during this crisis, and I believe God is blessing it. Psalm 133 says that God commands a blessing where His people dwell together in unity. There is a 700-bed facility at Cal Poly for overflow COVID-19 patients that lies empty, and SLO County as a whole has been comparatively spared from a localized outbreak. County officials are listening to us, including our input in their decision making process, and forging new friendships that will have lasting dividends for the community as a whole. I urge you to consider our responsibilities in this light:

BIBLICALLY

The Apostle Paul teaches us to obey our governing authorities. Romans 13:1-3 (TPT) states, *"Every person must submit to and support the authorities over him. For there can be no authority in the universe except by God's appointment, which means that every authority that exists has been instituted by God. So to resist authority is to resist the divine order of God, which results in severe consequences. For civil authorities don't intimidate those who are doing good, but those who are doing evil. So do what is right and you'll never need to fear those in authority. They will commend you for your good citizenship."* Even the occupation and 'oppression' of the Roman Empire on the early Church did not evoke mass uprisings within the mainstream Christian community. In keeping with this same spirit, I see no Biblical basis for opposing our state and local governmental guidelines regarding a phased approach to restoring larger public gatherings due to the Coronavirus outbreak. To the contrary, I believe we have a Biblical responsibility to abide by the guidelines faithfully and support our public officials with sincere prayer.

CIVICALLY

As Christ-followers, our first priority in a public crisis is to embrace our God-given responsibilities as Kingdom ambassadors and gatekeepers. We must view our individual liberties through the lens of our Biblical responsibilities, rather than viewing our Biblical responsibilities through the lens of our political convictions. Our charge is always first to be a faithful follower of Christ.



PHASES AT AGAPE

The State of California has a four-stage ROADMAP to re-open statewide activities culminating with an end to the stay home order in Stage 4. As of May 8, the state moved into Stage 2 with Stage 3 expected as soon as June. Stage 3 is when indoor worship services could resume with modifications under the state guidelines. SLO County has applied for a local variance from the state to implement the START Guide that will help our county move more quickly through Stage 2. However, the county variance only includes faster adoption of Stage 2 guidelines, not items (like indoor worship services) reserved for Stage 3 under the California Roadmap. Our plan at Agape is to host online and drive-in services through May (CA Stage 2), host online and courtyard services in June when California moves to Stage 3, and resume indoor worship services with online livestream when California moves to Stage 4. These timeline projections are estimates and subject to updated state and county guidelines. We respect the convictions of individuals in our church family to participate with us as they see fit. Please contact Pastor Jeff at jeff@agapeslo.org with any questions about this plan.

AGAPE PHASE 1 (CA Stage 2 - projected through May)

ITEM	CA/SLO GUIDELINES	AGAPE APPROACH
ONLINE SERVICES	OK	Prerecorded and Hosted Live Sundays @ 830AM & 10AM
DRIVE-IN SERVICES	OK	Sundays @ 10AM
COURTYARD SERVICES	n/a	n/a
INDOOR SERVICES	n/a	n/a
MODIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE GATHERINGS	Attendees stay in cars for Drive-in services	Attendees stay in cars for Drive-in services
FAMILY TIME FELLOWSHIP	n/a	n/a
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	n/a	n/a
HOUSE CHURCH AND LIFE GROUPS	SLO County variance for 10 person gatherings	Small groups proceed at the discretion of group leaders



AGAPE PHASE 2 (CA Stage 3 - projected to start in June)

ITEM	CA/SLO GUIDELINES	AGAPE APPROACH
ONLINE SERVICES	OK	Prerecorded and Hosted Live Sundays @ 830AM & 10AM
DRIVE-IN SERVICES	OK	Overflow from Courtyard
COURTYARD SERVICES	OK	Sundays @ 10AM
INDOOR SERVICES	Guideline Restricted	n/a
MODIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE GATHERINGS	Maintain Social Distance Family groups 6' apart No passing items 1-direction foot traffic Enhanced Sanitation	Reservation Required - Eventbrite Family groups in chairs 6' apart Prepackaged Communion Controlled entry and exit by row Enhanced Sanitation
FAMILY TIME FELLOWSHIP	n/a	n/a
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	n/a	Children sit with their families if families come to courtyard service
HOUSE CHURCH AND LIFE GROUPS	10-50 person limits with social distancing	Small groups proceed at the discretion of group leaders.

AGAPE PHASE 3 (CA Stage 4 - projected to start in July)

ITEM	CA/SLO GUIDELINES	AGAPE APPROACH
ONLINE SERVICES	OK	Livestream from Sanctuary Sundays @ 10AM.
DRIVE-IN SERVICES	OK	n/a
COURTYARD SERVICES	OK	n/a
INDOOR SERVICES	OK	Sundays @ 830AM (Chapel) & 10AM (Main Service)
MODIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE GATHERINGS	n/a	n/a
FAMILY TIME FELLOWSHIP	OK	Sundays @ 930AM
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	OK	Sundays @ 10AM
HOUSE CHURCH AND LIFE GROUPS	OK	Small groups proceed at the discretion of group leaders