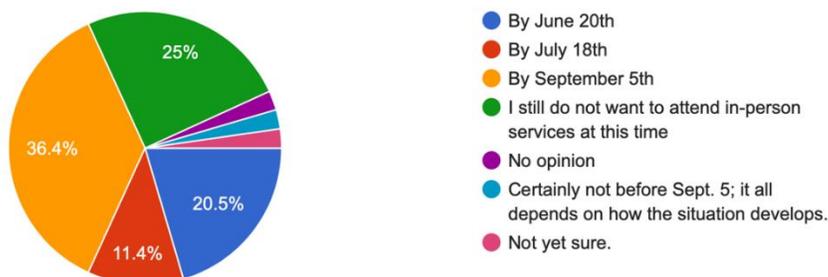


Saturday, June 5, 2021

To all members and friends of the congregation of St. George's Place du Canada,

As we had planned, a leadership group of corporation members, worship planning members and clergy met yesterday to discuss and plan for the re-opening of St. George's church. The first thing that we did was to look together at the results of our survey of the congregation, which served to gauge the feelings of members. We were thankful to have received 44 responses, of which five were from people who either phoned in or sent in their survey after receiving it via mail. We were pleased with the response and believe that it does reflect the intentions of the members of St. George's. Here are the main results below:

I would be interested in returning to in-person Sunday worship....
44 responses



In all there were almost 32% of respondents who preferred a summer opening, either June 20 or July 18, and the rest, 68% were those who either wanted to open after September 5, or who did not want to open yet, and wanted to wait for an undetermined amount of time.

There were differing opinions about what we should do with this data, everything from opening sooner, rather than later, and somehow accommodating those who were uncomfortable returning on Zoom, to waiting until September, when it was clear that we would see more members in person. In the end, when we took into consideration the tenuous levels of staffing, with replacement clergy still uncertain and current clergy's vacation time, and taking seriously the member's response to the survey, we decided that the best plan overall would be to return to church September 12, the Sunday after Labour Day. It was sincerely felt that at that time we could come back with a real bang, rather than a whimper, and in particular, to a full-service schedule of 9am and 10:30 am services as in the per-covid days. We continue to plan for something to be available on Zoom for those reluctant or unable to come in person and we are still exploring what that should look like. Currently we favour one of two possibilities, either videotaping the 9am service to stream to Zoom live, or later that same Sunday, or doing a separate lower-key Zoom service in the style of our current 10:30 service of Morning Prayer but have it run at 12:15 or later. As we weigh the options for this service, we are taking into consideration the available technical expertise, the number of volunteers who will help make this service possible, and the expense of the equipment that will have to be put in place for this to happen in the fall. We have begun to explore these options already and have several names who we can call on to help.

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I for one, have sincerely missed being together, and it is our most sincere wish that when we return, we do so together, so that we can really celebrate. We hope to be permitted to have as much music as possible, right from the beginning, including at the very least, some solo vocalists who can help us to worship joyfully. Of course, we encourage everyone to do their best to have their second vaccination by this date, so that we can come together strong and stay well. In the meantime, there is considerable planning to do, but we think that such a celebration is possible if we wait till the end of the summer.

I know that this news will disappoint a number of people who were hoping to return to St. George's sooner, but I hope you will bear with us as we put plans in place, which we feel best for the majority, and possible considering our human resources. In the meantime, we pray that you will each stay safe, and help us to put things in place so that our return in the fall is truly a celebratory occasion.

Sincerely, and in Christ

Karen+