

Nov. 15, 2020

For a few weeks now, your Executive Team has been monitoring the rising number of new cases of COVID-19 in our city. On Friday, the province moved London-Middlesex into the more restrictive yellow zone. Although the precautions at our worship service will continue to work in the yellow zone, some parts of the Diocese of Huron closer to the Greater Toronto Area have been moved to the orange zone, where they will have to make adjustments to their services and to their mid-week activities.

We've also been contacted by some of our worship volunteers who say they're not feeling comfortable coming to in-person worship anymore. We were becoming concerned about calling on the remaining volunteers too often.

These things have weighed greatly on our minds.

Last week, we contacted most of those who regularly attend in-person and we talked this over at Parish Council on Thursday.

Taking in all this information and feedback into consideration, the Executive Team has decided that as of December in-person worship here at Ascension will be held on the first and third Sundays of the month only. On all Sundays, whether we're here in person or not, we will continue to have the service available online.

We will continue to need some worship volunteers even on the Sundays when we don't have an in-person congregation. That will include the readers, intercessors and A-V Team, so a new schedule will be coming out from the office.

On Friday, we received an email from Bishop Todd Townshend that spoke about the colour zone changes. It is posted on the COVID-19 tab of our website if you want to read it. In it, he said no parish should feel

they must continue to hold in-person worship and that the leadership of each parish has his full support in making decisions about that.

We understand that this is sobering news. We are especially heartened by the responses we received from so many of those who attend in-person regularly and their willingness to support us in whatever decision we made.

We will continue to worship in-person for the last two Sundays of November, and of course the first Sunday in December, so we are together for the next three Sundays.