While religious services were exempt from orders around COVID-19 in Ohio, many voluntarily stopped in-person services and are beginning to resume some services. Below are recommendations on prevention practices that religious organizations and their parishioners should follow to help minimize the spread of COVID-19.

### Recommended Best Practices

#### Social Distancing
- Host a separate service for older adults
- Drive-in or virtual church services are encouraged
- Follow social distancing guidelines and space attendees at least six feet apart from non-household members (Consider using every other or every third row for seating)
- Consider hosting additional services and reduce capacity at each service
- Reduce capacity to 50% of the fire code
- Consider using advance registration to limit the number of people attending each service
- Consider reducing the use of choirs where proper social distancing cannot occur amongst the members

#### Physical Spaces
- Provide hand sanitizing stations
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces (doorknobs, handrails, pews, counters, etc.) after each service
- Clean and sanitize frequently
- Consider using disposable fliers or brochures for each service rather than shared materials
- Remove any unnecessary objects to minimize the number of surface contacts
- Consider foot traffic patterns and open additional entrances/exits to minimize people congregating before and after services
- Consider closing childcare services or children’s only services
- Close the kitchen and other self-service areas, including drinking fountains
- Close other common areas to discourage members congregating

#### Employees, volunteers, members
- Face coverings should be worn by everyone in attendance
- Attendees should not shake hands or hug anyone that is not part of their household
- Sharing food before and after services is strongly discouraged
- Members should wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before taking communion
- Members should not share a communion cup
- Ask employees and volunteers to take their temperature before or when they arrive, send home if temperature is above 100.4
- Ask members to stay home if they feel sick
- Members offering communion should wash their hands before serving