

Proposal from Worship Team to Church Council October 6, 2021

In keeping with recent guidance from our Bishop that directs all congregations in the GNW UMC to be in compliance with local vaccine mandates, the Worship Team recommends that First Church require proof of vaccination for all individuals attending worship services in person, effective October 31, 2021.

We are painfully cognizant that such requirement presses upon our commitment to radical hospitality, and we come to this recommendation based upon the following rationale:

- We are committed to keeping all who participate in the First Church community as safe as possible. Vaccination is the best way to insure safety in the face of Covid.
- For those who cannot or choose not to be vaccinated, we maintain the option of connecting virtually with livestream worship services.
- To be clear, a recent negative Covid test result is *not* sufficient under this recommendation. This clarity and simplicity is intended to reduce strain upon staff and volunteers, for whom facilitation of worship has become increasing complex.
- Children who are not eligible for vaccination due to age are exempt from this requirement.
- Masks are still required, as previously articulated.
- Members of the Worship Team are committed to helping facilitate vaccination for any unvaccinated individuals who wish to participate in in-person worship services.
- Proof of vaccination includes a vaccination card, photo of a vaccination card, or QR code.
- We believe this will be a temporary measure. We will be in more communication with the church as we draw closer to October 31st and King County offers more details on their own implementations.