

Parkview Church,

Iowa City Mayor, Bruce Teague declared a civil emergency on Thursday evening (8/19) in response to the spread of the COVID-19 delta variant. In addition, he implemented a mask mandate that went into effect at 11:59 pm Thursday evening. The mandate requires masks in all indoor settings, including churches. The legality of this mandate has been questioned in light of the state law that was passed in May prohibiting mask mandates; however, it currently remains in effect.

As followers of Christ, we are instructed in Scripture ([Romans 13](#); [Titus 3](#); [1 Peter 2](#)) to submit ourselves to our earthly rulers when it is not in direct conflict with Biblical directives. At this time, it remains unclear as to whether the City Mandate or the State Law is the final authority on the legality of a mask mandate. Consequently, out of deference to the Mayor's mandate and to each other, we recommend that attenders of the in-person service wear a face-covering this Sunday. We believe this approach demonstrates respect for the Mayor's Mandate without violating the State Law.

While it is our recommendation to wear a mask, we recognize that there are differing opinions and practices among our members and attenders. We are preparing to have designated spaces for those who would feel most comfortable being seated in a section of masked attenders. We also ask that each of us exercise grace and demonstrate brotherly love in our interactions with each other, placing other's needs and desires above our own.

We remain excited about our Vision Sunday worship service at 10:00am at the Central Campus. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the vision that God has placed on our hearts as we move forward together in the coming year.

Parkview Church Elder Board