

Western North Carolina Via de Cristo

COVID-19 Protocols for Fall 2021 Weekends

As of 08/30/2021

Due to COVID-19, changes to our normal weekend and team meeting protocols are required to keep all participants as safe as possible. Much time was spent on this topic over a year ago, and at that time, a number of changes were identified. A Task Force met recently to review the earlier findings and confirm/revise them based on current conditions. The group recommends the following.

As current conditions change, the group will meet as needed and update the recommendations.

Task Force Team Members: Beth Bowman (former Leaders Chair), Ann Lashley (Lay Director), Dale Matthews (VdC Property Chair), Janice Payseur (current Leaders Chair)

Topic	Protocols
Weekend Team and Pilgrims	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The team size will be 44 or fewer. 2. The Pilgrim count will be 12 or fewer. 3. Each table, at most, will have 2 professors and 2 pilgrims. 4. Pilgrim applications will be accepted on a first-come basis. 5. While we are operating under a maximum of 12 Pilgrims, we will limit the number of Pilgrims from one church to 4. However, two weeks before the weekend, that limit may increase to fill any open Pilgrim slots. 6. Each team member and pilgrim must sign the Participation Agreement. 7. Each participant must provide a vaccination card or a negative COVID test (either the PCR or the Rapid test) conducted within 3 days of the start of the weekend (i.e., no earlier than the Monday of weekend's start date).
Activity Locations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team Commissioning (Thurs): Hopkins. Chapel will identify seating assignments. 2. Remaining Thursday activities for Men's #80: all will be held in the same locations (i.e., Horton) as they have been due to a dinner for a different group being held in Lake Lodge that evening. 3. Remaining Thursday activities for Women #81 and Mixed #51: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Last Team Meeting and Team Dinner: Lake Lodge Dining. Kitchen Chas will identify seating assignments and will disinfect after Team Dinner. b. Send-off: Hopkins c. Reception: Lake Lodge Dining. Kitchen Chas will identify seating assignments. d. First meditation: Lake Lodge Dining. Table Chas distribute Pilgrim Guides. e. That is, Horton will not be used on Thursday for any activities. 4. Chapel, all days: Hopkins 5. Rollo Room, Fri-Sun: Horton. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Team member(s) wanting to hear a talk will sit quietly behind the curtain. b. For Piety and Leaders rollos, the Decurias, and the Friday morning introductions/table assignments, team members will sit at the tables in the back of the room. Curtain will be opened and then closed following the event. 6. Serenade: Play Court, weather permitting. Otherwise, serenaders will stand on the porch of Horton; windows will be opened. 7. Cross Dedication: Hopkins 8. Clausura: Horton, theater seating

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"Bubbles"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To the extent possible, each group will remain together throughout the weekend's activities. 2. Each Table, besides sitting together in the Rollo Room, will eat together and sit together in Chapel. 3. Team members of each area, such as Kitchen, Chapel, Outside, etc. will eat together and sit together in Chapel.
Wellness Checks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directions for all temperature checks, including the sheets for recording temperatures, will be provided by the Health and Safety Cha. 2. These Temperature Checks will be managed and recorded by the Health and Safety Cha with assistance from other team members, as needed, at the following times: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Team Meeting arrivals b. Pilgrims and Team each morning during the weekend, prior to Chapel 3. Temperature checks for camp arrivals will be set up in the camp driveway. Persons will remain in their cars during the temperature check. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A volunteer group from the community will handle these: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Weekend team arrivals at camp ii. Pilgrim and Sponsor arrivals at camp b. Outside Chas, with assistance from other areas as needed, will handle Clausura arrivals. 4. There will be no wellness questionnaire documents due to participants signing the Participation Agreement. 5. Temperature Records will be given to Community Records person after the weekend.
Social Distancing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three feet 2. Seats will be assigned for each location (Horton, Lake Lodge Dining, Hopkins, etc.). A person will occupy that seat for each activity in that location for the entire weekend. 3. Hugging is acceptable but with sensitivity to those who may be uncomfortable.
Masks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required for all participants 2. Rector/a, Professors, and Pastors will not wear a mask during their talks, chapel speaking, etc. 3. Dale Matthews will make a plastic shield for the podiums in the Rollo Room and Chapel.
Disinfecting / Cleaning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Camp will disinfect dining hall (except after our Team Meal and Reception) and other "public" areas, such as Hopkins and Horton, on a regular basis. 2. Camp will not disinfect the lodging buildings once the weekend begins but will clean and disinfect all lodging prior to our arrival. 3. Signs will be needed for lodging and restrooms re: sanitizing the space after each usage. 4. Disinfecting supplies will be placed in all restrooms. 5. Outside Chas will disinfect all lodging buildings each day. 6. We will be using an air-filtering machine in the Rollo Room, Chapel and Dining Room. It filters all the room every 15-20 minutes.
Communion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individually packaged wine/wafers (~90%) and grape juice/wafers (~10%) 2. Tray with gluten-free wafers 3. Serve at the altar. Pastors to determine exact method.

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Musicians and Singing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dale Matthews has built plastic shields for musicians for both Horton and Hopkins so that musicians may sing without wearing masks. 2. Singing by all will be permitted. 3. Using removable labels, each songbook will be pre-labelled with a person's name and used only by that person throughout the weekend. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Music Chas will label songbooks. 4. Each table participant's songbook, pre-labelled with his/her name, will be stored in his/her "Welcome" bags for use in Horton. 5. In Chapel, everyone will have a songbook pre-labelled with his/her name in his/her assigned seat.
Photographs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No large group photo will be taken. 2. Group photos of Tables, Areas, and Heads will be taken.
Table Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No shared-usage items will be on the tables, such as boxes of tissues, snack baskets, and poster-making supplies. 2. We will provide "Welcome Bags," labelled with name and handled only by that person once the weekend begins. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The bags will be used to store all items needed in the Rollo Room such as Pilgrim's Guide , pens, songbook, tissue, notepads, markers, etc. b. Palanca, once received, may also be stored in the bags. c. May need to solicit donations for the bags themselves. (Note: Fall 2021 is covered.) 3. One person will work on the poster at the time. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monitored by Table Chas 4. Snacks will be individually wrapped and served on trays by Table Chas. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Snack trays will be prepared by Kitchen Chas wearing gloves and masks. b. Items, such as fruit, that do not come individually packaged will be packaged in plastic zip-lock bags as part of the snack tray preparation.
Dining	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fall Team meetings are being held such that meals are not needed. 2. Weekend Team Meal – should be simple and not require cooking. It should be food that can be wrapped (e.g., subs) and/or pre-plated and/or served easily by the Kitchen Chas wearing masks and gloves. Self-serve buffets are not allowed. 3. Reception – same guidelines as Team Meal 4. Camp Bethelwoods meals will be served cafeteria-style. Kitchen Chas, wearing masks and gloves, will plate the food. Assistance from other areas, such as Chapel, Outside, Music, Rollo Room, etc., may be needed to help with beverages as well as plating the food.
Sleeping	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Room assignments will be made such that vaccinated persons sleep in a room with vaccinated persons and the unvaccinated sleep in a room with other unvaccinated. 2. We will keep the number of persons in a room to the minimum we can based on camp facilities. The maximum will be 4 persons. 3. Each person will sleep with his/her head in the corner furthest away from the other sleepers' heads.