Principles for Safe Operating

1. **The work of the church is the work of the people, wherever they are.** Whether members are quarantined at home or required to work every day, we are all part of the body of Christ, all part of the ministry of St. John’s. We will strive to continue ministry in ways that adapt to our changing context and guard the public health.
2. **The health of the congregation is never separate from the health of the community**. Every action must take into account its impact on our neighbors, businesses we interact with and the larger Northfield community. We will strive to avoid decisions that put others at risk.
3. **While the virus may impact populations in different ways, the congregation will carry out its ministry attempting to continually include those who are most impacted**. Some are working harder than ever in these times; some have more time on their hands than ever before. Some hope to “get back to normal” very soon and others are foreseeing a long time of isolation. We will strive not to leave some parts of the congregation behind because their health or economic situation is more tenuous.
4. **With the resources of our staff and building, we will prioritize ministries on the following basis**:
   1. We will keep regular rhythms of weekly worship available to as broad a part of the congregation as possible, even when we cannot gather in person.
   2. We will prioritize financial resources for those in greatest emergency need (food, housing, mental health).
   3. As long as building use is limited, we will prioritize essential actions of the church that suffer the most from remote connection: commending the dead, baptizing the young, counseling those in crisis, physical work which must be done in person.
5. **The role of staff will increasingly be to equip members to be in ministry.** We will work to equip families to do faith formation at home, to equip youth to care for each other, to equip family members to pray with their own loved ones.
6. **We will strive to avoid actions which are not sustainable for the earth or for ongoing ministry.** Because we do not know how long this crisis will go on, we will avoid resource-intensive quick fixes such as disposable PPE, disposable communion items, or time-intensive replacements for large groups when there are more sustainable options available.