

## UCM Covid-19 Task Force

First organizational meeting 7/13/20

Present: Rhoda Chickering, Claudia Clark, Barbara Conrey, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Ryan Kane, Tina Muncy (hosting on Zoom), Noah Sexton, Barbara Thompson

Absent: Kathleen Bryant, Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

Our charge is to make recommendations to the Board and Executive Team regarding whether, when, and how to safely reopen the UCM building in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Suggested agenda items, which may overlap:

- Continuing closure of the building
- Use of the building/procedures
- Guidance on Sunday morning worship services
- Whether or not to open the building for rentals and under what circumstances
- Chairperson(s)

Links to State and UUA resource materials were sent out ahead of time by Claudia and Judith. We all need to read and digest the relevant portions of these resources:

[https://labor.vermont.gov/sites/labor/files/doc\\_library/Protecting%20the%20Safety%20and%20Health%20of%20Workers%20VOSHA%20COVID\\_FINAL\\_printerfriendly%20%2805.04.2020%29\\_0.pdf](https://labor.vermont.gov/sites/labor/files/doc_library/Protecting%20the%20Safety%20and%20Health%20of%20Workers%20VOSHA%20COVID_FINAL_printerfriendly%20%2805.04.2020%29_0.pdf)

<https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>

<https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>

[https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files/documents/Senior\\_Center\\_Re-Opening\\_Plan\\_Guidance.pdf](https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files/documents/Senior_Center_Re-Opening_Plan_Guidance.pdf)

We will need to combine applicable guidelines and checklists into one set for UCM. We should also listen to the Governor's Tuesday and Friday press conferences whenever possible in order to keep up with the latest guideline changes.

### 1. Continuing closure of the building

Currently the building is closed to the public. There is a sign-in sheet for individuals with a need to enter, e.g. staff (one at a time), the Thursday "sandwich group," the Property Committee, volunteers who mow the lawn, Black Lives Matter flag handlers. There may be a few others. We discussed who else might need to use the building and when. This topic melts into the following ones.

Action: Noah will copy the sign-in sheets and send them to us so we can see who is actually using the building.

## 2. Use of the building/procedures

Current procedures: There is signage instructing entrants to sign in, sanitize their hands and everything they touch, limit use of the building to what's absolutely necessary, try not to use the bathrooms, and sign out when leaving. Hand washing at the kitchen hand-wash station is OK.

Issues:

A. Staff want to work on-site more often this Fall. \*\*\**This item and the related Parts B and C below constitute the first priority we must address.*\*\*\*

Which staff? How often? How will they avoid contact? Which bathrooms will they use? Who will clean? There is currently not enough office space, e.g. Becky and Sam share an office; the new intern doesn't have an office. Should the nursery and/or the classrooms become office space temporarily? What does our insurance company require in order to allow staff to work on-site again? What are the legal requirements? Will we need additional equipment such as thermometers or sanitizers?

Action: Ryan will make the Board aware that we need to survey staff regarding their needs and wishes. He will also contact the AG's office to obtain the latest requirements for on-site work.

B. Cleaning and sanitation constitute a big unknown. We currently have no Sexton and no cleaning contractors.

What training is needed? What materials and equipment are required? What does our insurance company require?

Action?

C. Air circulation in the building is a problem.

What changes will have to be made to create healthy airflow?

Action: Barbara C. will research state guidelines in this area.

D. Can outdoor space be used for church-sponsored events?

Currently the only activity authorized on church property is another "flower walk" similar to the one that was held in June. No on-site fund-raising events are planned for the coming church year.

What guidelines would apply to meetings or events on church property? On off-site property?

What would our insurance company require?

Action?

## 3. Guidance on Sunday morning worship services

The ET and Board already determined that we will not have on-site worship services until at least January and probably longer. The UUA recommends keeping to virtual services until at least May of 2021. Their guidelines contain numerous important questions that have to be considered before a congregation holds in-person services again. We will get to this after we solve some of the more pressing issues.

What do we need to do to support and improve our virtual worship services before September?

The ET and staff are already working on a plan to improve our Internet service.

We may want to continue offering online access to worship even after we start in-person again.

This is an opportunity to be innovative and creative with our traditions and patterns.

Action?

4. Whether to open the building for rentals and under what circumstances

This option is not for the near future, but criteria will be needed eventually. It's conceivable that small events could be accommodated at some point in the timeline before the sanctuary reopens for worship. (Depending on group size and purpose. Nothing suggested or determined yet.)

Action?

5. Chairperson(s)

Scott and Ryan are considering this.

Next meeting: probably Wed. 7/29 from 5-6 pending confirmation with Joan. Scott will let us know.

We will discuss how to apply the information in our resource documents to the issue of staff use of the building.

We will record future meetings to facilitate better recordkeeping.

Notes by Judith