

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes
Fifth meeting 9/10/20

Present: Elaine Ball, John Bond, Kathleen Bryant, Rhoda Chickering, Claudia Clark, Barbara Conrey, Liza Earle-Centers, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Tina Muncy (hosting on Zoom), Janet Poeton, Noah Sexton

Suggested agenda items, which may overlap:

- Changes to the agenda
- Review/comment on minutes of 8/27/20
- Feedback from ET, Board, members or public
- Singing vs. Covid, ref. Joan's email of 9/1/20
- Community Lunch outdoor distribution of meals
- Outdoor community fridge
- Continued ventilation discussion?
- Live streaming of Sunday service from the sanctuary
- Holiday Fair update
- Ringing church bell on Sunday morning
- Other issues or business
- Next meeting

1. Changes to the agenda

None.

2. Minutes of 8/27/20

Minutes approved, no changes.

3. Feedback from ET and Others

Joan reported that the Board discussed the extent of "building closure." Can one or two people meet or work in the building? The TF has already submitted our recommendations for general policy. Exceptions should be at the discretion of the ET.

4. Singing vs. Covid

We appreciated the research article Joan sent. Due to its limited scope (and our lack of ventilation), we think group singing should be avoided until/unless there is more research available. The new Interim Music Director will keep an eye out for further information to guide UCM. Meanwhile, we recommend no more than one singer with Eliza (masked) at the piano and a camera person (masked). Then the sanctuary should be vacant for 24 hours, and ventilated with fresh air if available (depending on weather).

5. Community Lunch Outdoor Distribution of Meals

A Federal grant to local restaurants will provide for 50 lunches to be delivered to UCM on Mondays through December. Fifty people may sign up and pick up lunch between 11:30-12:15 in the parking lot. A tent will be stored in a location accessible from outside the building. The distribution group (Scott et al.) may need occasional access to the kitchen, but not for cooking. The ET already approved of this plan, if we have no objections. We have none.

The same grant will provide entrees for Thursday evening distribution. Otherwise there is no change to the Thursday program.

6. Outdoor Community Fridge

Abby Jermyn, who grew up in UCM, has requested permission to establish an outdoor community refrigerator on church property. It would contain food items that would be free to anyone in the community in need. Due to numerous problems and unknowns with this idea (including Covid protocols and lack of supervision), we did not approve or grant permission. Janet will let Abby know. Perhaps she can explore the idea with the Food Pantry.

7. Continued Ventilation Discussion?

Lack of ventilation is a major stumbling block to use of larger spaces in the church (sanctuary and vestry). We will keep this issue on the agenda as it relates to Sunday services. Technical issues/solutions will have to be resolved by Property Ctee.

8. Live Streaming of Sunday Service from the Sanctuary

Joan will try this out alone in the sanctuary this coming Sunday, with other elements of the service Zoomed in from other locations or pre-recorded.

9. Holiday Fair Update

Janet reported that planning is underway for several elements of the Fair to be held online. Pickup and/or delivery options for things such as wreaths will have to be determined. She will keep us posted.

10. Ring the Church Bell on Sunday Morning

We approved Liza's plan to video-record one family at a time ringing the bell in the entryway. She will be masked. The bell ringers may remove masks while being photographed. Otherwise all the outdoor protocols apply.

11. Other issues or business

Building Sign-in Sheets are in place. It's important that everyone always follow the protocols, so that they become automatic. UCM has not yet purchased a "touchless" thermometer, but will soon. (It is not truly touchless. Someone has to hold it and sanitize it afterward.)

Event Sign-in Sheets will be handed in through the outdoor mailbox. Becky will periodically collect and file both kinds of sign-in sheets, at least long enough for them to be used in the event contact tracing is needed.

We wondered aloud whether, if someone becomes Covid-positive after a church event, they should be required to notify UCM somehow. We left this question open, but following the meeting, John emailed to remind us that the State initiates contact tracing after a positive test, so the tracers would contact UCM. We don't need a duplicate procedure.

12. Next meeting: Thu. Sept. 24 at 5:30 pm. (continuing with our new time).