

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes  
Fifteenth meeting 4/15/21

Present: Elaine Ball, John Bond, Kathleen Bryant, Pat Carstensen, Rhoda Chickering, Allen Clark, Claudia Clark, Barbara Conrey, Liza Earle-Centers, Kellie Walker Hart, Paul Hartmann, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Rev. Joan, Ryan Kane, Tina Muncy (hosting on Zoom), Paul Ohlson, Janet Poeton,

Agenda:

- Changes to minutes of 4/1/21
- Changes to the agenda
- Comments/feedback from church members/community/Board/ET
- Updates to State or CDC guidelines
- Review of the subcommittee's Covid reopening plan draft
- Air quality/ventilation update
- Changes to current or future protocols
- Silent meeting in vestry this summer
- Other business
- Next meeting

1. Changes to the Minutes

None

2. Changes to the Agenda

Add chalice lighting and opening reading (Joan).

Add "keeping congregation informed" under Other Business (#9).

3. Feedback/Comments from Others

None

4. State Guidelines

The Governor's new plan to reopen VT by July 4<sup>th</sup>, called "Vermont Forward," was reviewed by the subcommittee. Most businesses and gatherings will reopen faster than the UUA recommends, and faster than we are comfortable with for UCM. The subcommittee's draft guidelines (see next item) are more conservative and do not depend on "Vermont Forward."

5. Review of the subcommittee's reopening plan draft 1.3

(See also Joan's comments on the draft submitted by email ahead of the meeting.)

Joan's suggested wording changes will be incorporated. We will clarify which Dept. of Health figures reflect statewide statistics and which are by county. We want to use county figures when available. John will provide links to the relevant websites. Additional operational details, such as sign-ins, contact tracing, bathroom cleaning, etc., will form the basis of a subsequent set of operational guidelines. The current document is limited to reopening criteria. A question was raised about water quality, since the building has been closed for a year. Allen explained that the bathrooms have been used regularly and the Property Ctee. has frequently run water through the faucets, so water quality is not a concern.

A revised draft will be circulated to the TF for final comments before it goes to the ET.

Work will begin on the operational guidelines as soon as the reopening guidelines are done. The same subcommittee (John, Scott, Judith and Noah) plus Janet and Claudia will draft the second document.

6. Air Quality/Ventilation Revisited

Barbara, Allen and Paul O. discussed the difficulty of getting contractors to do this work because they are all booked with school projects through the summer. There is no possibility of our project being completed by September. The asbestos factor complicates the project. Full design of the air system will cost approx. \$30,000. The entire project could run over \$200,000. They will keep us updated on progress.

7. Current and Future Protocols

Kellie asked about the possibility of outdoor singing in June (and beyond). We need to revisit the outdoor guidelines we established last September, as community conditions and guidelines have changed. That document accompanies these minutes.

8. Silent Meeting in Vestry This Summer

Pat described how silent meeting has operated in past years. Maximum attendance was about 26. She and Peter would like to know whether it can happen this year or not. We can't answer this until we complete the reopening guidelines and the operational guidelines, which will apply to all potential users of the building.

9. Other Business

(a) Keeping the congregation informed. It has been too long since we put an update in the e-news. We will start doing this again. Scott will draft something for next week. The Board and/or the ET will need to take the lead on preparing the congregation for the ventilation work and its price tag.

(b) Liza asked about changes to staff protocols for use of bathrooms and kitchen. As far as we are concerned, they are empowered to make any necessary changes in accordance with current Dept. of Health guidance.

(c) There will be an outdoor family event on 4/25 with Mother Up. Family pods will be widely spaced. (Not on church property.)

10. Next Meeting: Thu. April 29th at 5:30 pm.