

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes
Seventeenth meeting 5/13/21

Present: John Bond, Rhoda Chickering, Allen Clark, Claudia Clark, Barbara Conrey, Beth Damon, Liza Earle-Centers, Kellie Walker Hart, Scott Hess, Judith Hinds (recording), Rev. Joan, Tina Muncy (facilitating and hosting on Zoom), Paul Ohlson, Elizabeth Peebles, Janet Poeton, Noah Sexton, Peter Thoms.

Agenda:

- Chalice lighting (Joan)
- Changes to minutes of 4/29/21
- Changes to the agenda
- Comments/feedback from church members/community/Board/ET
- Updates to State or CDC or UUA guidelines/impact on our reopening guidelines (John, Kathleen) – including rentals? 3-foot distance for kids?
- Air quality project update (Paul, Barbara, Allen)
- FAQ update (Judith, Claudia)
- Messaging to members
- Annual Meeting and air quality forums – who will speak/present?
- Other business
- Next meeting

1. Chalice Lighting

2. Changes to Minutes

None

3. Changes to the Agenda

Add items from Joan's 5/12/21 email (appended to these minutes) – see items 4 and 10 below.
Add request from Youth Group advisors (email from Scott containing proposal from Elizabeth Peebles appended to these minutes) – see item 10 below.

4. Feedback/Comments from Others

Via Joan's 5/12 email, the ET had questions about the 4/29 draft of our Outdoor Guidelines. These questions require further research into recently changed state and CDC guidance. Judith and Liza volunteered to look into this and make additional recommendations to the ET.

5. State Guidelines

John referred to an announcement from the CDC today allowing mask removal for vaccinated people. We will wait to see what Gov. Scott announces on Friday before we consider any changes to our indoor guidance.

Kellie referred to new UUA guidance on singing (finally!) announced yesterday:

<https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance/singing>. They would permit singing if 3 out of 4 criteria are met: excellent ventilation, high-quality masks, 6-foot distancing, and duration of no more than 30 minutes. This will be very helpful to us when we draft UCM's singing guidance at our next meeting. Meanwhile, Kellie would like to have at least one singing

event outdoors for choir and others when she visits Montpelier in June. We have no problem with that. The ET should make the final decision.

Judith and Claudia asked to revisit two topics in the Reopening Guidelines, rentals and distancing. Do we need to narrow our inclusion of rentals in Phase One? The TF said no, this is not really a Covid TF issue. The ET can decide whether rentals should be limited for other reasons (e.g. Sexton vs. cleaning service, etc.). Should we reduce the required social distance for kids in LSE classes to 3 feet as has been done in the schools? The TF said no, as schools operate on a pod system which doesn't apply to UCM.

6. Air Quality Project Update

Negotiations with contractors have begun. An ad hoc communication team is planning informational presentations – see item 8 below.

7. FAQ Update

Draft FAQs are up to 7 pages. Those on air quality that have already been approved will be posted this weekend. Those that relate to worship and other areas need to be reviewed by Joan and subsequently the whole TF.

8. Messaging

An ad hoc communication team was set up to manage messaging about the Air Quality Project. We (TF) still need to put info in the e-news every other week or so regarding other aspects of reopening. Claudia set up a special email account for questions: ucm.reopening@gmail.com. She will monitor the inbox and refer any new questions to appropriate people for response. She also created slides for use at the meetings mentioned in item 9 below. Thank you, Claudia!

9. Annual Meeting and Air Quality Forums

Scott will report on TF work at Annual Meeting. He will let us know if he needs assistance with any of the other informational events planned by the ad hoc communication team. Thank you, Scott!

10. Other Business

(a) Joan asked in her 5/12 email about possibly allowing congregants very limited access to the sanctuary in the days preceding the flower communion. We felt this is not a Covid issue, and the decision should be made by the ET.

(b) Elizabeth Peebles and Pat Meehan, Youth Group advisors, requested our guidance on providing/consuming food at the planned camping trip in June. (See their proposal in the 5/12/21 email via Scott, appended below.) The TF approved the gist of the plan and suggested they check back with us in a couple of weeks re possible guidelines changes.

(c) The request from Elizabeth later led us to some discussion of our role as an advisory group vs. the ET's role as a decision-making group. We (TF) don't have the authority to grant permission or approve a plan. We can do research and offer recommendations.

11. Next Meeting: Thu. May 27th at 5:30 pm.

Items from Rev. Joan

Rev. Joan Javier-Duval <ucm.revjoan@gmail.com>

To:Tina Muncy
Cc:Scott Hess,Judith Hinds,Barbara Conrey,Executive Team,Vic Guadagno
Wed., May 12 at 11:04 p.m.
Hi, all,

I have two additional items for our meeting if these will fit into our agenda:

1) The ET and staff met earlier today and had some suggestions/questions about the Outdoor Gathering Guidelines, revised 4/29/2021.

- Paragraph #1 re: Masks - Should this paragraph be further revised according to VT Dept. of Health Guidelines which state, "*When you are outdoors, masks are only required when you are in a crowd or with other households where you can't maintain a 6-foot distance*"?
- Paragraph #3 re: communal food - Is it still within VT Dept of Health/CDC guidelines to prohibit communal food?
- Paragraph #4 re: restroom use - Is it still within VT Dept of Health/CDC guidelines to restrict use of restrooms? (We understand if there may be other reasons to restrict the use of restrooms but wanted to check about the health/safety reasoning.)

2) The Worship & Arts Committee would like to request that we allow congregants to enter the Sanctuary to participate in a brief ritual in conjunction with our final church service of the year which is the annual Flower Communion Sunday (June 13th). We know how much people miss being in the Sanctuary, and we think there is a Covid-safe way to make this happen. Our idea is to choose 2-3 time slots in the week or two prior to Flower Communion Sunday during which people could enter one individual/household at a time to pass through the Sanctuary and leave a flower and take a flower (or participate in some other brief ritual) and possibly sit for a few minutes. We would limit the number of people who were in the building at any one time and would instruct people that there is to be no socializing inside the building or wandering to other places. We are investigating a sign-up system and also know we would need some volunteers ready to help "host" people for the brief time they are in the building. We would require people to either sign-in before entry or review the safety guidelines before arrival. Thanks for considering this request.

That's all! Thanks for your great work attending to these important matters!

Youth Group Proposal

Scott Hess <scottphess@gmail.com>

To:Tina Muncy (tmuncy@myfairpoint.net)

Cc:Judith Hinds,Elaine Stehel,Barbara Conrey,Executive Team,Victor Guadagno

Wed., May 12 at 11:12 a.m.

Hi All,

Please read the proposal request below from Elizabeth Pebbles. This item will be added to the agenda tomorrow and she will probably be joining the meeting to present and answer any questions.

Thanks,

Scott

Youth Group Camping Trip Food Procedure Request/Discussion:

UCM youth group is planning on a one-two night camping trip at Kettle Pond. We have multiple adjacent sites reserved so that we can spread out but still spend the weekend together outdoors.

We would like to propose that aside from personal water bottles (which participants will be responsible for) we will use disposable plates/cutlery so there is no need to wash or reuse items. The exception will be a kettle/pan for boiling water (if they want the option of tea/coffee) and cooking utensils such as metal tongs for the grill.

Most food would be pre-purchased by Elizabeth (youth advisor) based on youth preferences from an upcoming rsvp survey but the final food selected would be based on what would require limited handling. Any food item that can come prepackaged as individual portions will be selected. Any handling of food would be set up in a designated area at the camp site and would require mask wearing and hand sanitizer (and disposable gloves if that is felt safer?).

The first evening dinner could either be a take out meal from a Montpelier restaurant that we bring or a brown bag meal that youth would bring their own. We would also have individual bags of popcorn and smores makings (i could pre bag the makings so no one is reaching into a larger package).

Snacks would be individually wrapped granola bars, chips etc, and fruit with skin that participants would individually wash or peel (ie apples/bananas but no melon).

We would have individual containers of yogurts and cereals but milk/juice would be from a shared container in the designated food handling area.

We request permission to prepare a meal of burgers/hotdogs or tacos which will require some prep at the camp site but could be carefully supervised/handled. Such as a designated food prep person would portion out the toppings, wearing a mask, clean hands, and using disposable utensils, so that there is limited overlap in handling packages.

Our campsite rules could also include that any eating be done at a distance of 6 ft (except for if siblings are present?).

After this socially distant year the youth group is looking forward to having a fun but safe weekend camping together. We hope the task force will agree that the youth group can have communal meals at the campsite safely and we welcome any suggestions to help accomplish that goal.