

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes  
Nineteenth meeting 6/14/21

Present: John Bond, Kathleen Bryant, Rhoda Chickering, Allen Clark, Claudia Clark, Kellie Walker Hart, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Rev. Joan, Tina Muncy (hosting on Zoom), Janet Poeton, Verdis Robinson, Noah Sexton, Peter Thoms.

Agenda:

- Chalice lighting (Joan)
- Changes to minutes of 5/27/21
- Changes to the agenda
- Comments/feedback from church members/community/Board/ET
- Updates to State or CDC or UUA guidelines – any changes to our current reopening plan (Phase One, Phase Two)?
- Air quality project update (if available)
- Messaging – topics for e-news – timeline for messaging re fall services
- Other business
- Next meeting

1. Chalice Lighting (Joan)

2. Changes to Minutes

None

3. Changes to the Agenda

Add request from Liza re Outdoor Guidelines (now under item 5 below).

Add singing guidelines recommendation from the sub-group (now under item 5 below).

Add summer meditation services (now under item 8 below).

Add request for tour of building (now under item 4 below).

4. Feedback/Comments from Others

A new congregant asked if they could tour the building. We recommend NO.

5. Guidelines – State, UUA, UCM

Gov. Scott lifted all remaining State-level restrictions today, and will let the State of Emergency expire tomorrow. VT still has “universal guidance” posted, which the public is encouraged (but not mandated) to follow. UUA Guidance remains more conservative, grounded in UU values of inclusion. We will continue to use science-based information and UU values as our reference points. Vermont’s numbers are good now, but not as good as a year ago. Some, but not all, of our Phase One reference guidelines have been met. Our criteria are based on other UU churches and on our air quality problem.

- Should we allow small groups of vaccinated people to hold meetings inside the church yet? We recommend NO, except for staff.

- We recommend one change to Phase One Reopening Guidelines, i.e. change 6-foot distance requirement to 3 feet. ET will review and will edit guidelines if they approve. [NOTE: They met on 6/16 and did NOT approve this change.]

- Outdoor Guidelines – Liza and Joan recommend liberalizing the mask requirement so that paragraph 2 would read as follows:

2. *In larger groups or mixed-age groups, everyone must adhere to social distancing and wear a mask when distancing is not possible. Exception: Masks for children preschool and younger are at parents' discretion and under parents' supervision.* The Task Force agrees.

- Singing Guidelines – the sub-group (Kellie, Joan, Janet, and Ed Hutchinson) recommend that UCM adopt the UUA Singing Guidelines. The Task Force agrees, with the caveat that there is confusion about whether the UUA's volume of air exchange per person is adequate. Allen pointed out that it is significantly below the engineering standards he is familiar with. He will continue to follow up on this with the UUA to determine where their info came from.

#### 6. Air Quality Project Update

No new info at this time. Paul is retiring from the Property Ctee. and the Air Quality Project. He will be replaced on the AQP by Kris Hammer.

#### 7. Messaging

We will continue to put blurbs in the e-news, stressing that we are relying on science and UU values in all our recommendations. Judith will draft an announcement for this week.

We will wait until later in the summer to say anything specific about fall services.

#### 8. Other Business

Peter and Pat seek our advice about whether to hold summer meditation services indoors. They would keep windows and the front door open, keep a list of attendees, monitor the back door, and observe masking/distancing requirements. The Task Force supports this plan if the ET agrees. This would be a pilot project, a unique case for now. We do not recommend allowing any other meetings in the vestry (or the building) until we see how this goes.

11. Next Meetings: None planned in July, but we are available if needed. Plan on August 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (both Thursdays) at 5:30.

Verdis will be on call during Joan's sabbatical. He will be back "on the ground" Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>.