

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes  
Twentieth meeting 8/23/21

Present: Elaine Ball, Rhoda Chickering, Claudia Clark, Barbara Conrey, Liza Earle-Centers, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Ryan Kane, Tina Muncy (hosting on Zoom), Leslie Parr, Janet Poeton, Donia Prince, Verdis Robinson, Noah Sexton, Barbara Thompson.

Agenda:

- Changes to minutes of 6/14/21
- Changes to the agenda
- Comments/feedback from church members/community/Board/ET
- Updates to State or CDC or UUA guidelines
- Air quality project update (Kris, Barbara, Allen)
- Reopening guidelines/in-person services/singing
- Messaging – topics for e-news
- Other business
- Next meeting

1. Changes to Minutes

None.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Scott announced that Kathleen Bryant has resigned from the TF. We thank her for her service and expertise.

Add ice cream social (Barbara T. – now under item 8 below).

3. Feedback/Comments from Others

The ET requested us to meet at this time, primarily to discuss reopening guidelines including singing (item 6).

4. Guidelines – State, UUA, UCM

This discussion is blended into item 6.

5 Air Quality Project Update

UCM has hired David Slade of Slade Engineering. He is working on preliminary plans, including investigating availability of materials. The AQP team hopes to receive preliminary plans in Sept. There is no timeline for the work yet. Most work will affect chiefly the vestry, which will likely be closed less than a month. The kitchen may be affected. Community Lunch should check into alternate spaces.

6. Reopening Guidelines

Thanks to Claudia and Donia for sending us new guidelines from the UUA and other reference materials ahead of this meeting.

Vermont's Covid numbers do not currently meet our reopening guidelines, so we recommend no indoor Sunday services in September. We recommend no change to the reopening guidelines at this time. If/when we are able to open at 50% capacity (Phase 1), how will we manage the cut-off limit? We can look at other churches that are already doing this to see how they've managed.

The new UUA guidelines, especially for outdoor gatherings, are quite restrictive. We acknowledge that they have to cover the whole country, including states with very high Covid transmission. Some guidelines may not be applicable in Vermont.

In accordance with our outdoor guidelines and guidance from the UU Musicians Network, our choir has been rehearsing weekly under the tent at the North Branch Nature Center. They have special singing masks and follow all the earlier UUA guidance. This week's new guidance, especially for distancing, would be a problem. They would like to move to NBNC's large indoor space as the weather cools. It appears to meet or exceed air exchange requirements. Barbara C. will visit and verify the air exchange; if it's adequate, we recommend letting the choir use the space following the earlier UUA guidance for 3 out of 4 of the following:



We discussed the possibility of recording a small group of masked singers and/or an unmasked soloist in the sanctuary. Since there is no ventilation system, we recommend finding alternate locations for recording.

#### 7. Messaging

Was not discussed.

#### 8. Other Business

Ice Cream Social – Membership Committee has been planning an all-church ice cream social for the afternoon of Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, following the first fall service. It would be held outdoors at NBNC, using their tent and restroom. Given the new guidelines and VT's rising Covid numbers, Mem. Ctee. is questioning whether this event is really safe. After discussion, we recommend proceeding with the event with additional precautions, such as everyone masking when they're not eating, bringing in a couple of porta-potties, having only masked and gloved people serve food, etc. If the Covid curve continues to rise or VT issues new guidelines between now and then, it can be cancelled if necessary.

9. Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30.