

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes  
Twenty-second meeting 10/7/21

Present: Allen Clark, Joel Dennison, Liza Earle-Centers, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Rev. Joan, Cass Madison, Jen Matthews, Leslie Parr, Janet Poeton, Charlotte Root, Peter Thoms, Meredith Warner.

Agenda:

- Changes to minutes of 9/23/21
- Changes to the agenda
- Comments/feedback from church members/community/Board/ET
- Updates to State or CDC or UUA guidelines
- Air quality and AV updates (Allen)
- Changes/exceptions to reopening guidelines
  - in-person meetings?
  - singing guidelines
- Other business
- Next meeting

1. Changes to Minutes

None.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Scott introduced Cass and Jen, our new members who bring their medical expertise to the TF. Cass has extensive experience in health care administration and Jen has practiced occupational therapy in various long-term care settings.

3. Feedback/Comments from Others

The Board plans to follow up on Joel's suggestion for a congregational survey. They are working on the content, in collaboration with several committees who also need feedback from the congregation. Interpretation of the results will likewise involve consultation with multiple parties within the church, such as staff, ET, committees.

4. Guidelines – State, CDC, or UUA

Nothing new here that we are aware of.

Meredith emailed us links to a *UU World* article and a model safety policy developed by the UU church in Nashua, NH, as follows:

[“Congregations adapt to evolving Covid guidance”](#)

<https://uunashua.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Covid-19-Building-Use-and-Church-Programming-Policy-4.pdf>

These should be added to our list of Covid TF resources on the UCM website.

5 Air Quality Project Update

Engineers' drawings are due tomorrow. Several contractors have indicated an interest in bidding, including the one that did the ventilation project at Bethany Church.

## 6. Reopening Guidelines

We are not all equally familiar with the current reopening guidelines. We should all review them in detail. Link: [May 4, 2021 Reopening Guidelines](#).

Do we want to adjust them? Do we want to create a framework of criteria as extensive as Nashua's three phases? Board members spoke in favor of keeping phases in some form. We need to consider safety and mental health of staff and volunteers as well as of the congregation as a whole. The Board is working with the question, "How do we create an environment of consent?" Maybe instead of rewriting the guidelines as a whole, we should consider specific needs of specific groups, e.g. meeting spaces for various LSE groups or committees, or rehearsal/recording spaces for choir. We could consider exceptions or experiments as we did with the vestry for summer services.

Path forward: The ET will make a list of desired exceptions. The role of the TF will be to help set conditions around the exceptions. We are already attempting to create such a model with the singing guidelines. Who can do what, where, under what conditions?

We did not delve into singing guidelines at this meeting because Donia couldn't be here, and we ran out of time.

## 7. Other Business

Janet outlined tentative plans for a modified Holiday Fair, which may include a takeout dinner. The church kitchen may be used for cooking by a small staff of vaccinated cooks unless ventilation construction dictates that all cooking be done off-site. The Holiday Fair organizers will keep the ET apprised of their plans.

## 8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 19th, at 5:00. (Note different time and day of week!)

Singing guidelines and other special needs identified by the ET will have top priority on the agenda.