

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes
Twenty-ninth meeting 1/20/22

Present: Liz Benjamin, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Rev. Joan, Jen Matthews, Leslie Parr, Gale Pekar, Janet Poeton, Donia Prince, Charlotte Root, Peter Thoms.

Agenda:

- Changes to minutes of 1/6/22
- Changes to the agenda
- Feedback from Board, ET, congregation, other groups
- Policy for positive Covid occurrence
- Sign-in sheet revisions/clarifications
- Overarching set of Covid Safety Policies
- Reopening guidelines (ref. Jen and Cass's draft from 11/10/21)
- Other business
- Review of work/topics for next meeting
- Next meeting

1. Changes to Minutes

None.

2. Changes to the Agenda

A question about choir rehearsal in the sanctuary was added to item #8, "Other Business."

3. Feedback from Board, ET, congregation, other groups

Peter reported that the Old Meeting House has postponed the start of in-person services due to the current Covid surge.

Joan reported that the ET discussed our recent recommendations and took the following actions:

- Approved a vax/test requirement for choir members.
- Approved allowing only essential functions to take place in the building while the CovidActNow risk level remains at "Severe."
- Approved a vax/test requirement for staff. They are working on the exact wording for this one, using the VDOH definition of "fully vaccinated," encouraging booster shots, and developing details of a medical exemption.

They also began considering our recommendation for hybrid services in Stage Orange, but tabled it for further discussion.

They noted staff will need alternate work spaces when AQP construction affects their offices.

4. Policy for Positive Covid Occurrence

Our thoughts/recommendations: If a staff member or other person who was present in the building or at a church event tests positive within 48 hours of being present in the building or at the event, they should notify the ET of their positive test result and follow VDOH recommendations for quarantine, testing, and isolating. Which person to notify and method of communication will be determined by the ET. The ET will notify all other persons present or identified as having been exposed to the positive person at the church building/event. If anyone

develops symptoms, they should leave the building immediately and follow VDOH recommendations for testing and isolating, if applicable.

5. Sign-in Sheet Revisions/Clarifications

These sheets need updating to match current conditions. Joan and Jen will work on this.

6. Overarching Set of Covid Safety Policies

The ET sees a need for an ongoing set of policies that would include not only the reopening guidelines and outdoor guidelines, but also vaccination policies, positive test protocols, etc. We may be asked to contribute material and/or make recommendations beyond the reopening guidelines.

7. Reopening Guidelines

We returned to Cass and Jen's draft document of 11/10/21, based on the Nashua UU church's guidelines. It may make sense to correlate our risk categories exactly to the categories and colors on the CovidActNow site, to avoid confusion. Jen offered to revise the draft and circulate a new version before the next meeting. We can strike out language that doesn't apply (such as vax for congregation), and add language pertaining to specific areas of church life (such as LSE or rentals, for example). Jen will add mask specs.

At this point, we are essentially already planning for post-AQP phases. During AQP construction, the only space available for gathering is the sanctuary.

If some gatherings become safe before the AQP is complete, could we use non-UCM buildings? Would we need our own criteria for those gatherings, or just follow the guidelines in place on those premises? We did not arrive at answers to these questions.

8. Other Business

The AQP team evaluated whether the choir could rehearse in the sanctuary, using six air-cleaning units. They calculate it's safe to do so. We recommend approving this practice as long as the worship team who rehearse on Fridays in the sanctuary feel comfortable with it. The choir won't start until at least 2/1/22 – waiting for risk level to subside.

9. Review of Work/Topics for Next Meeting

This was not addressed as a separate item. Items 4, 5, and 7 will need follow-up.

10. Next Meeting: Thursday 2/3/22, 5:00 PM.