

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes  
Twenty-ninth meeting 1/6/22

Present: Liz Benjamin, Allen Clark, Barbara Conrey, Vic Guadagno, Scott Hess (facilitating), Judith Hinds (recording), Rev. Joan, Jen Matthews, Leslie Parr, Gale Pekar, Janet Poeton, Donia Prince, Verdis Robinson, Charlotte Root, Peter Thoms.

Agenda:

- Changes to minutes of 12/14/21
- Changes to the agenda
- Task Force membership
- Vaccination/testing for staff
- Feedback from others, including Christmas Eve service
- Reopening guidelines (ref. Jen and Cass's draft from 11/10/21)
- Other business
- Next meeting

1. Changes to Minutes

None.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Item #4 (vax) was expanded to discuss other groups besides staff.

3. Task Force Membership and Decision-Making

Scott introduced Liz as a new representative from LSE. The ET has reviewed their original intention regarding wide representation on the TF and concluded we are OK for now. We have LSE, music, worship team, membership/hospitality, property, Community Lunch, ET, Board, staff, Air Quality Project, health professionals, and one member-at-large.

We have almost always reached consensus on our recommendations to the ET. We apparently voted once (8/23/21) on the Ice Cream Social, but spoke with one voice in recommending it to the ET. The vote was not recorded in the minutes. If we have to vote again in the future, who can vote? All regular attendees including staff who have direct contact with congregants. Not drop-in guests.

4. Staff Feedback on Vaccination/Testing

Staff and ET discussed staff questionnaire responses. Their consensus (not formally adopted yet) is that all paid staff should be fully vaccinated (as defined by the CDC) and subject to Covid testing – type and frequency of testing TBD. Like all of our Covid guidelines, this one is not meant to be permanent. Conditions will determine the cutoff date. Joan will maintain confidential records.

Re choir – we recommend to the ET that choir members be required to be fully vaccinated OR have a negative rapid test result on the day of their meeting (to rehearse, record, etc.). They must show proof of vax or test result to Donia or her designated representative, both of whom will preserve confidentiality of records.

Re contractors – we don't recommend a vax mandate. Contractors are already required to follow our other protocols for signing in, masking, etc.

Re worship associates, tech team, chalice lighters – we recommend encouraging, but not requiring, testing.

#### 5. Feedback on Christmas Eve Service

Ten people attended in addition to the worship team and tech team. The choir sang in the vestry. Most attendees were not familiar with how to use rapid tests, so this took up Joan's time. For future events, this task should be delegated to someone else.

#### 6. Reopening Guidelines

We noted that VT is currently at a "Severe" (dark red) risk level according to CovidActNow. This level is beyond anything envisioned in our current (2021) guidelines or in the draft new guidelines we've been discussing recently. We recommend that no committees or small groups meet in the building while the "Severe" risk level continues, *except* for staff, worship team, Community Lunch personnel, and essential property functions, e.g. contractors, cleaners, AQP team. We also recommend keeping Sunday worship team and tech team numbers as sparse as possible during this period.

Next we should develop guidelines for small groups to meet in the building once we return to Stage Orange (CovidActNow "High" and "Very High" risk levels) – protocols, number of people in each room, etc. We will start with this point at our next meeting.

#### 7. Other Business

We need to inform the congregation of our work so far on revising the Reopening Guidelines. Scott and Judith will draft an announcement for next week's e-news.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday 1/20/22, 5:00 PM.