

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes
Thirty-second meeting 3/3/22

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

Agenda:

- Changes to minutes of 2/17/22 and special mtg. 2/22/22
- Changes to the agenda
- Feedback from Board, ET, congregation, other groups
- Choir: soloist interaction with congregation policy/logistics
- Reopening guidelines – continue with document
- Final logistics for congregation in-person service
- Other business
- Review topics for next meeting
- Next meeting

1. Changes to Minutes

None.

2. Changes to the Agenda

We added discussion of the Montpelier mask mandate and new CDC Community Levels. See item #7 below.

3. Feedback from Board, ET, Congregation, Other Groups

Twelve people have registered to attend the first in-person service on 3/6/22. A small number of people have objected to the testing requirement as being burdensome and potentially expensive. We discussed possibly changing to a requirement that attendees be either fully vaccinated or tested; also discussed whether to require proof of either, or to use the honor system. Joan will ask the worship team and tech team whether they are comfortable with these options. The ET will make the decision for future services. For this upcoming Sunday, since the information has already gone out, we will stay with the testing requirement.

4. Choir: Soloist Interaction with Congregation

More research is needed – postponed until next meeting. Jen and Donia will look for distance criteria.

5. Reopening Guidelines

- For this week's in-person service, we changed our recommendation for age 5 as the mask threshold to age 2, to align with the Montpelier mask mandate (see item #7).
- We briefly discussed whether staff policy really needs to include both vaccination and testing. This made sense at the beginning of the omicron surge when the policy was drafted, but staff and ET may see it differently now. We suggest ET/MT reconsider this clause at their next meeting.
- We still need to finalize Stage Yellow and Stage Green worship guidelines, and set guidelines for other kinds of activities in the building. How much time/energy do we want to devote to this with spring coming and the AQP progressing on schedule? Is UCM likely to need guidelines for

these stages before the AQP is complete? We should all look at the draft again and be ready to work efficiently on this issue at our next meeting. Joan will circulate an up-to-date draft before then.

6. Final Logistics for March 6th In-person Service

The worship team would like to have a one-page summary of the guidelines for Stage Red and Stage Orange that they can distribute to anyone who just shows up for this Sunday's service without pre-registering (guests, etc.). Jen offered to put this together and deliver it to Joan by Saturday evening. Thank you, Jen!

7. Other Business

- Montpelier mask mandate is in place until 3/11. City Council will vote on 3/9 whether to extend it. It applies to children ages 2 and up, so we need to comply with it as long as it remains in effect.

- The CDC has posted a new risk level model called Community Levels, based on hospital admissions, hospital capacity, and new cases in the community (by county). Thus it de-emphasizes case counts and focuses more on the level of severe cases in medical facilities. VT Dept. of Health had a meeting today to discuss the implications of this model. Jen will know more about this by the time we meet again. We discussed perceived ambiguities in the CovidActNow model, and wondered whether we should switch to the CDC for our reference metrics. Donia will do more research into CAN figures. We will consider pros and cons at our next meeting.

8. Review Topics for Next Meeting

Vax vs. testing – for worship, and for staff

Soloists

Guidelines for Stage Yellow and Stage Green

Guidelines for non-worship meetings

Reference metrics

Status of city mask mandate

Debrief first in-person service

9. Next Meeting: Thursday 3/17/22, 5:00 PM. Scott may not be able to attend; he will let us know.