

UCM Covid-19 Task Force Final Minutes  
Thirty-sixth meeting 4/28/22

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

Agenda:

- Changes to minutes of 3/31/22 and/or 4/14/22
- Changes to the agenda
- Report on hybrid immunity (Judith)
- CovidActNow new metrics (Joan)  
[https://covidactnow.org/us/vermont-vt/county/washington\\_county/?s=32682088](https://covidactnow.org/us/vermont-vt/county/washington_county/?s=32682088)
- Capacity increase for services in near future
- What mitigations, if any, will still be needed once AQP is complete?
- Guidelines for group activities?
- Proposed revision to outdoor guidelines (Janet and Liza)
- Status of TF going forward?
- Review of topics for next meeting
- Next meeting

1. Changes to Minutes

3/31/22 – We accepted Joan’s changes to Janet’s minutes. Joan will create a clean copy for Claudia to post.

4/14/22 – No change.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Hybrid Immunity

Judith emailed her findings to the TF and ET. Liza and Jen also emailed a list of resources. Our recommendation hasn’t changed. The ET will make a decision. They will also decide how long the Covid policies will stay in effect.

4. CovidActNow New Metrics

CAN has changed its risk levels to reflect the new “community levels” established by the CDC, making them (hopefully) more reliable. We will not pin any new recommendations to these metrics. We will abandon the draft guidelines that were pinned to the old metrics. The ET and staff are following the general principles and standard mitigations that have emerged as constants in spite of all the changes to specifics. They will continue to require masks and distancing for most settings for the remainder of the church year. See also items 5 and 7 below.

5. Capacity Increase for Services in the Near Future

ET and staff plan to increase capacity incrementally in May and June unless there is another Covid surge.

6 What Mitigations, If Any, Will Still Be Needed Once AQP Is Complete?

Left for future discussion. ET will let us know if they want us to do something with this.

### 7. Guidelines for Group Activities

(a) ET doesn't plan to allow any new group activities until at least summer, maybe fall.

(b) Donia sent us an email with some proposals for singing. See text following, with TF comments in italics:

Under a general singing heading, here are a few specific topics/questions for consideration.

Choir can sing in person with masks when windows can be opened, unless Washington County is in High Risk according to the new CovidActNow. *TF agrees.*

For the remainder of this year, they may sing unmasked ONLY if Washington County is in Low risk status, AND if each individual takes a rapid test prior to the service. *TF agrees.*

For Music Sunday I propose that the choir all take rapid tests before the service, because of the duration of time that they will be singing together, less than 6 ft apart. They will remain masked unless Washington County has a low risk status. *TF agrees.*

General question: How does in-person choir affect capacity limits? Does choir always need to be counted in overall limit? *Left for ET/staff/worship team to decide.*

I think we might want to have a compromise on this, say counting the choir as 10 or 15 people. Think about practically when this might be the case--possibly not until Music Sunday on May 22nd, possibly on May 8th.

Soloists or small vocal ensembles (up to 6 people) may perform unmasked on the chancel as long as they take rapid tests prior to the service. *TF agrees to soloists, objects to ensembles. Ensembles should be masked.*

The congregation should be made aware of this testing requirement for any times (solos, small ensembles, choir) that singers might be unmasked, for ease of mind. *TF agrees – very important.*

*TF suggests seating the congregation no closer than the third row.*

*TF feels the choir has been using good judgment and should handle their own protocols for the rest of this year.*

### 8. Outdoor Guidelines

Janet and Liza emailed a simplified revised version of the Outdoor Guidelines. We agreed, and we recommend this version to the ET.

### 9. Status of Task Force Going Forward

The ET has no specific needs from us right now. They are OK with us going dormant. If they need something in the future, they will contact Scott or others (such as our medical experts) as needed. They will keep the Covid section of the website updated.

### 10. Topics for Next Meeting

N/A

11. Next Meeting: None scheduled.