

Special Parish Committee Meeting RE: Reopening

October 12, 2021

Attending: Maria Meter, Celia Wcislo, Sara Galantowicz, Rev. Marta Flanagan, Rev. Erica Richmond, Tina Schultz, Jeff Keffer, Anne Quaadgras, Al Tosti, Tom Estabrook, Carolyn Hodges, Steve McMullen. Guests: Lois Fine, Elizabeth Hunter, Amy Anderson

See attached proposal for discussion purposes from the Executive Committee.

Consensus that we are planning to return to the Sanctuary on November 14, 2021.

Presentation by Sara Galantowicz and Anne Quaadgras on results on the congregation survey (will attach in final minutes). High points include:

- Over two hundred members filled out the survey. 99% of eligible household members responding were vaccinated. Drops to 88% when you include households with children under twelve.
- General sense that people want to come back, though there is still some nervousness about returning.
- Agree that K95 masks OR double masks will be required to be in the building. We have purchased 600 K95 masks for any member who want to use one.
- No food or coffee hour in building
- No congregational singing. Only singing will be by the choir, and at a safe distance.
- Will tell congregation that vaccinations are required, through communications and signage. Negative Covid tests are not acceptable in lieu of vaccination.
- Will try to keep the service to an hour and 15 minutes or less.
- Initially children will be dropped off in the courtyard and taken to classes by their teachers. The children will be picked up in the courtyard.
- A Zoom hybrid service will be available for all.

Issues of execution to discuss later:

- Need for special greeters and role of ushers.
- If and how to do contact tracing- Review October 19th. Sara and Tina will investigate what the town does
- Do we need to sign people in?
- How will we enforce this?
- Are there barriers or alternatives for building community for those attending online?

Vote: Made by Anne Q and seconded by Tom E: Motion passed unanimously.

- 1) Return to in-person service November 14th, as well as a hybrid Zoom service for those who do not want to return yet.
- 2) Vaccination required for all who are eligible. Announce it through broad outreach. We will use the honor system for compliance.
- 3) Require masks all entering the building or sanctuary, except speakers.
- 4) No congregational singing. The choir may decide to sing but will use distancing.
- 5) No food or drink in building. Outside would be fine.
- 6) This policy will be reviewed mid-December.

Motion made by Sara, seconded by Anne, to adjourn at 9:07 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Return to Worship Proposal

Requirement	Proposal	Alternatives
Masks	required for all over age 2, K-95 available or double masking, except for speakers	Recommend K-95 or double masking
Food & Drink	Not allowed in building	(Coffee hour outside good idea!)
Congregational Singing	Not initially allowed in services	Allow the choir to sing (masked), with safe distancing
Other	Try to keep it shorter, but not a limit	Limit service to 1 hour
RE	Will initially be all outside, no TFAA (though kids can stay with their families)	
Vaccination	Required for all eligible Already: RE Teachers, choir, lay ministers (in person), Staff, have Vac. cards on Realm	
Specifics of the requirement	Announced and honor system, widely communicated through signage, website, etc.	Signing up in advance or show vaccination card
Vaccination exemptions	(already covered under "eligible) Children under 12 exempted and welcome in the sanctuary	
Current test as alternative to vaccination	No exemption for a recent negative test (survey did not support and difficult to monitor)	Allow since most venues have this option

Exposure notification	Call it "sign in" for the purpose of contact tracing by the town. Voluntary sign in.	Signing up in advance Announce if someone tests positive, let the office know.
Good until?	We revisit this policy	Pick a date: December 31
Rerun the survey	When we see a change	Pick a date: December 1

Topics:

- Enforcement
 - Who does this
- Contact tracing. Review Oct 19
 - What are Arlington town policy (Sara and Tina will work on this)

Beginning hybrid worship. For those who choose to return ...

Return to Sunday morning worship Nov 14, 2021

Vaccination required to attend service for all who are eligible.

Announced, using the honor system, widely communicated through signage, website, etc.

Continue masks, no food & drink, no congregational singing (doesn't apply to choir)

Review mid December