

Oldtown Church Reconnection Team

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Attendance: Pastor Kelly, Linda Vogler, Ed Clavette, Leah Moynihan, Kevin Graves, Kris Collins and Deanne Bellinger

(not in attendance Cindi Barkley, Pat Sanford)

Summary: review of activity in 3 stages--Past (3/17 Minutes), Present (Pet Clinic Plans) and Future (Next steps and activity in preparation for next meeting on 4/14), Members accepted action items and ponders for next meeting

Agenda:

Opening prayer

Past: any updates to Minutes, Minutes accepted as submitted by Kevin Graves

Linda to take Minutes for 3/31 and 4/14 meeting minutes

Present: review Action items from March 17 meeting

Pet Clinic ready for April 10, 2021:

Jim Koeffler and Peter Granville enthusiastically accepted opportunity to open church with first Pet Clinic

Jim Fennell contacted Ed and updated church website with Pet Clinic information with rates

Ed distribute set of rules that cover protocols for Pet Clinic, walk-ins will be allowed

Flow of Clients & Pets:

1. Clients Remain outside
2. Pets come to the door
3. Services Rendered
4. Cash-out after services

3rd volunteer needed for outdoor support

Future:

How many guests can occupy church sanctuary?

Per Permit = 280 by certificate of inspection

Every-other pew would be 6' away, Each Row 6 every other pew

Easiest manner to stagger attendees to every other pew (*did I get this right?*)

Based on Massachusetts Standards for Houses of Worship::

"Occupancy Limitations:

For indoor services, places of worship must monitor member entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to the greater of the following:

50% of the building's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy"

Determine 140 occupancy limit

Attendee Flow

Entering & Exiting: Based on Guidance from Massachusetts Standards for Houses of Worship:

"Places of worship are encouraged to take steps to encourage orderly entering and exiting of services in a manner that encourages social distancing. For example:

- Signage or floor markings should be posted to have one-way aisles or otherwise direct attendees to follow certain pathways for entering and exiting the service
- If a line forms outside of the service, those waiting should be directed to maintain social distancing. Tape or other markings on the ground outside of Places of worship should be placed to encourage attendees to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet
- Staff should direct people in high traffic areas to help maintain social distancing
- Officiants or other staff should direct successive, row-by-row exiting"

Kris Collins suggests take video of flow of church seating

Linda Vogler suggests sending mailing message to attendees that are not connected electronically

How to handle attendees who arrive late and hard of hearing? Will we be able to accommodate them?: Not likely, as we do not plan to keep open spaces for late arrivals

Suggestion: Seating to occur front to back

Reservation: pre-registration needed with 140 occupancy?

Research of Other Church Communities:

What are other churches doing?--Spaced seating, same door for exit & entrance

Hand sanitizer in each pew: would this be necessary?

Pew Cushions: ? for Kevin Graves: peroxide based sanitizer for cushions

Keep Hymnals & Bibles in Pew?

Contract Tracing: submit card in advance of coming to church, or cards in pews, how necessary is it?

How to handle Young People in Church Service and Fidget with Maxcy hall is closed, church services shorter

What Options could be available for young people? Outside services?

Outside Service: parking lot, bring your own chair, Sidewalk chalk?

Music: individual/small group singers, no congregational singing

Hold outdoor service as stepping stone to opening the church

NEXT STEP ACTIONS:

Watch Amy McCarthy's church service?

Kris Collins to draft a plan of attendee flow of church service with 140 attendee maximum. Kris Collins offers to meet with anyone to visit church for walk-through

Deanne Bellinger to ask a friend at North Attleborough Church on the common

Ed Clavette to ask friend about Baptist Church in Plainville

Kelly ask church leader community if able to share other church plans for service

Kelly do you have an idea of how many members would like to return to service? Could we do another poll about comfort in returning to church

Kelly to connect with North Attleborough Health Department regarding opening

Cleaning Crews to be requested for pre-opening cleaning

Ed Clavette to ask Kevin Graves about cleaning material for pews and pew cushions

Ponder Items For April 14 meeting:

Any spike in COVID cases?

Next Opening Event: Select date for Yard Sale

Cleaning would need to be done: Narthex, Bathrooms

Questions carry-overed from March 17, 2021 Meeting:

Need to know risk/impact of/on singing, group response, passing of peace?

How do we continue to share with the virtual community? (Service – huddle – short)

Maybe not whole worship once we're 100%?

Do we try to stream? Implications on privacy and licensing?

Would some members require special protection and how to protect?

How should we communicate the safety guidelines to participants?

How do we alert newcomers and visitors?

Should we utilize online sign-up to monitor and limit attendees?

Do we want to do temperature checks, who would do this?

At what point would permitted occupancy make it feasible and advisable to open?

Would we need one or two pews separation, how to accomplish?

Should we promote ventilation and how?

What kind of signage or queue guidance would be needed?

Will we need separate exit and entrance?

Would we need row by row exiting?

Would we continue to use face coverings and what ages?

Where would we seat those medically unable to wear masks?

How are other churches handling this?

Reviewed some examples

What is the risk of physical collection and contributions?

How to we promote/utilize no-touch?

How might we handle communion, what's the risk?

Prepackaged seems impersonal for Oldtown?

How to handle bulletin distribution?

Maybe leave in pews in advance?

Would we need to prevent communal gatherings and if so, how? Coffee house?

How would we handle nurse and childcare?

How would we handle bathroom cleaning?

Who would do the general cleaning, self or 3rd party, how often, with what?

Should we worship outside in the near short term?

How would we handle music, sound reinforcement, tent, chairs, electric?

How would we handle accessibility with outside worship?

How/who would we assess the overall risk to the Old Town community?

What role would vaccination play in our decision?

How might we want to handle fairs, yard sales, suppers, pet clinics?

Would we need to sanitize money, provide hand sanitizer?

How do we handle the logistics and labor of the yard sales? – Ed needs help

How would we handle huddle, maybe outside?

Next Meeting via zoom on April 14 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Vogler