

Oldtown Church Reconnection Team Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Attendance: Pastor Kelly, Linda Vogler, Ed Clavette, Kris Collins, Cindi Barkley, Pat Sanford and Deanne Bellinger

Leah Moynihan

Kevin Graves unable to attend

Summary: Review Prior Meeting Action Items and Ponders, discuss recap of Pet Clinic and Possible Yard Sale

Agenda

Opening prayer

Review of March 31, 2021 Minutes: reviewed and accepted by attendees

Recap of April 10, 2021 Pet Clinic reported from Ed

(11) people: (13) dogs, 2 cats

Onsite/reg form worked well

People also created their own queue by asking each other their appointment times

4th volunteer truly helpful

\$382 raised for church

Review of Action Items:

- Watch Amy McCarthy's church service?: Kelly to send out video of Spencer Church service
- Attendee Flow: Kris Collins distributed entrance/exit plan for attendees church, plan to review plan again for
- Deanne Bellinger to ask a friend at North Attleborough Church on the common: un able to reach friend before 4/14 meeting
- Ed Clavette to ask friend about Baptist Church in Plainville: outside service in 2020, chairs in sanctuary so able to control seating, no written plan, use laminated spacer cards for guests, sanitation of chairs done by gentleman with backpack sprayer, require masks, once seated masks able to remove held small suppers, restrooms hand sanitizer inside and outside, cleanser and equipment sample to be sent to Ed
- Kelly ask church leader community if able to share other church plans for service: Kelly shared Spencer Church plans

Central Congregational Church: not discussing opening until Fall 2021

2nd Congregational Church: had issue with COVID originally, 2 weeks into Lent opened again, Easter had 55 people, usual Sunday there are approx 20, currently in-person, Sunday School every other week via zoom, discourage young families to attend in person due to vaccines not available to youth

AMC Church: no plans to open, very small congregation, part-time pastor

Living Word: were meeting at Wamsutta School, running online services, not likely to seek out another building

Norton Congregational Church: currently open, cap 40 people in sanctuary, live stream service,

Unitarian Church: denomination closed all churches, amazing online resources available to them, may start back in September 2021

Lord of Transfiguration: now open St Mark's and Sacred Heart, one service for each, parking lot services consistent with 200 people, no changes planned, St. Mary's 150, St Marks 150 and Sacred Heart 90

- 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?: Returning to in-person worship survey with Household huddle question removed to be sent out as separate message on 4/15, adding question about outdoor service

Survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNf8Ch9GwO67eSNWtjDAUCGfSW5BjeahTtci5qjie-X4rjeA/viewform?usp=pp_url

- Kelly to connect with North Attleborough Health Department regarding opening: Kelly shared MA guidelines for worship, written plan to be available if requested; Kelly shared Spencer Church re-opening plans, Kelly to request another church's plan
- Cleaning Crews to be requested for pre-opening cleaning: plans to arrange cleaning teams to clean Narthex and sanctuary to prepare for re-opening, prepare list of cleaning tasks: bathrooms, front narthex, back narthex and sanctuary, Kelly to ask for people interested in helping with cleaning of church areas
- Ed Clavette to ask Kevin Graves about cleaning material for pews and pew cushions: Kevin to share cleaning materials that are able to clean soft/cushion items

Plan to React to Potential Increase in Cases:

Do we pay attention to local town/case counts?

Contact Tracing?

Yard Sale: possible schedule date

How to Support Social Distancing at Yard Sale?--Use South Lawn, place tables far enough apart, position boxes from School House to carryout, larger set of volunteers for setup and dismantle (6am-8am for setup and 2pm)

May 15 Tentative date for Yard Sale; request for help to be included in Fri 4/21

Reminders from March 31, 2021 Minutes

How many guests can occupy church sanctuary?

Per Permit = 280 by certificate of inspection, Determine 140 occupancy limit

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

Attendee Flow: review flow presented by Kris

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 28, 7pm via zoom

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 Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Vogler