

Saint Andrews United Methodist Church
Reopening Task Force Minutes
February 28, 2021

The meeting of the Reopening Task Force was called to order at 4:03 pm by Merlin Young upon request from Lisa Anthony, the chairperson.

Those in attendance:

Merlin Young	Vann Spivey
Doug Harwood	Ken Hendrickson
Parker Watson	Lisa Jones
Iris Senzig	Claude Jenkins
Jeff Cope	Ellen Beasley
Trisha Keen	Teresa Hunt
Evelyn Tay	

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Vann.

In Person Worship Vs. Virtual Worship

There was discussion concerning whether and/or when SAUMC could open our building for In Person worship service or continue with the current system of Virtual worship using Facebook and You Tube. Merlin provided information of the status of NC's Covid 19 response noting our positivity rating is now below 6%. NC has currently vaccinated about 1/3 of eligible persons. Governor Cooper has increased the group numbers to "up to 25 if meeting inside and up to 50 if outside." The Task Force remains unanimous in its opinion that member safety has to be our first goal. Parker Watson reported information from Holland's UM church as to how they handled reopening and in person worship. Also Pastor Vann reported similar status on in person worship from several area churches including Garner United Methodist, Horn Methodist in Clayton, Jarvis Memorial UMC in Greenville and others.

Some of the churches do have in person worship. Some require preregistration. All require masks to be worn and a social distance of 6 feet during their services. Some take temperatures prior to entry. No paper bulletins, no hymnals, no live vocal music. Most report limited attendance. Most do not have childcare available.

Following a detailed discussion of our SAUMC situation, a motion was made by Iris Senzig, seconded by Jeff Cope, to begin outside worship in our parking lot using recorded music as well as continuing our Facebook program and streaming on You Tube until further determination can be made. Motion carried unanimously. A policy and procedure will be attached and made a part of these minutes.

Small Group Gathering on Church Grounds

A question was raised as to small groups being allowed to meet outside on the church grounds; i.e., use of the Meditation Path, Front Porch, under the Portico, etc. During discussion it was noted that masks, social distancing, must be followed. Small Groups could bring chairs but no SAUMC chairs or tables would be allowed outside. Proposed rules were offered; i.e. Sessions must be scheduled through the Church Office, group size must be 50 or less, no available times on Sunday until after 1:00 pm for the Portico area. A motion was made by Iris Senzig, seconded by Doug Harwood, to allow small groups to use church grounds in accordance with a policy and procedure which is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Small Group Gathering Inside the Building

Pastor Vann reported a few small groups have asked to use the rooms 4,5,and 6 in Education Wing for meetings as well as Sunday School classes. This was discussed at length. Special concerns were noted that must be adhered to such as only Rooms 4, 5, 6 and the side of Gathering Hall nearest the Main Building would be available. Small Groups meeting inside must not exceed 25. Restrooms will be open. Water fountain, Water at Coffee Counter will not be available. Kitchen will remain closed. No ice will be used from ice machine. Chairs and tables must be positioned for proper social distancing. In Rooms 4,5,6 an allowable occupancy during the pandemic will be established and posted.

Each requesting group must designate a Leader who will ensure rules are followed during scheduling, setup, meeting time and cleanup. Leaders must agree that rules regarding masks will be followed. If someone chooses not to wear a mask for any reason, the Leader is expected to end the meeting and all depart the building. Groups must schedule through the Church Office and will be limited to scheduling 30 days at the time to allow others to share time slots.

A motion was made by Jeff Cope, seconded by Claude Jenkins, to allow small groups to reserve space either in East end of Gathering Hall or Rooms 4, 5, or 6 in Education Hall if the approved procedures are followed. Motion carried unanimously. This procedure will be attached and made a part of these minutes.

Other Business

It was reported that the Preschool staff have been in the building at times to prepare packets for parents to pick up.

The next meeting of the Reopening Task Force will be March 14 at 4 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6 pm by Merlin.

Minutes prepared by
Iris Senzig