

UCN REOPENING COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 30, 2020

Zoom Meeting – 2:00 pm

Attending: Peter Blain, Brian Bunzel, Leigh Hoftiezer, Janet Jensen, Dean Johnson, Brian Monroe, Jean Woodmansee

Unavailable: Rev. Tony Larsen, Pat Mumm-Lovely, Jackee Orozco

Welcome and chalice lighting: Leigh Hoftiezer welcomed committee members, and focused on the concept of “patience” for chalice lighting words: forbearance, endurance, character of steadfastness; antonyms hastiness, impetuosity.

Minutes 7/26/20: approved, with copies to be sent to website (Andrew) and archive (Lyn).

Additional agenda items: anti-mask messaging in UCN Zoom services (Bunzel); postponed to after planning ahead discussion, below

Reopening webpage contents: discussion focused on UCN webpage and need for services link without having to consult Northliner. Consider “one click” models of Facebook. Question raised about whether Zoom access problems have adversely affected attendance, though summer tends to be lower across time. Concerns raised about Zoom-bombing; this is now generally covered by the host’s & co-host’s control of screen sharing.

Review of institutional updates:

- CDC – (Brian B) No changes since 5/23 Communities of Faith considerations; masks inside, outside >6 ft ok not to mask, family units ok not to mask in homes; traveler quarantines reduced to 10 days from 14; relaxing surface transmission restrictions; contradictory mask information disputed by Dr. Fauci; 8/8/20 considerations for Non-Profits unchanged
- Wisconsin Council of Churches – Dan L. reported that July data will be checked mid-Sept and end of year; recommend no building re-entry prior to fully available vaccine; parking lot services ok, though UCN is too small; discussion of concerns about those lacking access technology
- UUA – (Leigh H.) no new information received
- Discussion of epidemic of misinformation

Current COVID infection data for Wisconsin:

- Brian B. reported up and down fluctuations
- Leigh H. reported prison population increases
- Jean W. noted Journal-Sentinel reporting of northern Ozaukee county schools increases

Rental policy under COVID:

Discussion of rent adjustments when spaces are not used/occupied. Concerns about fairness to renters and desire to maintain long-term (post-COVID) positive connections vis-à-vis UCN budgeting and financial concerns. Jean W. detailed the Art Oasis situation, citing positive aspects of Zoom meetings and the cost to members of meeting only sporadically at UCN. Al-Anon has very small numbers attending meetings at UCN and has gone to all Zoom. Dan L. will attend the next Finance Committee and report on budgetary impacts of rent reduction including the impact on the pending refinancing decision; that information needs to be shared with the Facilities Committee prior to going to the Leadership Board. The Reopening Committee agrees that this is a board decision, however wishes to be on record in support of considering rent adjustments. Peter B. recommended delaying any motion until there is information from the Finance Committee.

Planning ahead: As it is likely that there will eventually be hybrid services with a congregation that is both in-person and virtual, we will need improved production equipment (microphone, camera). Dean J. recommended that any purchase decisions be delayed, as technology will likely change by the time of re-entry. However, what is needed now are more hosts, co-hosts, worship assistants and especially individuals willing to learn the current production process. Leigh H. noted the availability of online training seminars, and Dan L. noted a tech resource person who might be subcontracted has been identified.

Anti-mask messaging: Brian B. noted that Men's Weekend (Monroe residence, upper Michigan) participants joined the 8/23 Zoom service without masks, and that Rev. Tony and Janet J., from Janet's home on 8/30, were only partially masked. The criticism and validity of the reminder were sincerely accepted, though it should be noted that State of Wisconsin guidelines state that face coverings are not required in private residences.

Next meeting: Sept. 27, 2020, NOON, invites to follow in advance with a reminder approximately 1 hour prior.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Jensen