

UUCC guidance for re-opening our building to in-person, small group gatherings

March, 2021

Based on recommendations from UUA, safecongregations@uua.org

Core Values:

- We value the inherent worth and dignity of every person and prioritize the well-being of those most vulnerable.
- We seek to be responsible to our interconnectedness with the broader community.
- We will engage clear & transparent decision-making.
- We strive to create a safe and inclusive working environment that values our staff.
- We will be informed by the best available science.
- We will be responsive and adaptive to an ever-evolving situation.

UUCC covenant for small groups during the COVID-19 pandemic

Covenant: Our gatherings will be as safe as possible for all participants. We agree that:

1. Policies regarding in-person meetings will be made by the Board of Trustees and minister in consultation with the COVID-19 Advisory Task Force and our staff. As the situation changes, so may these policies.
2. The church will cooperate with and support any contact tracing efforts necessary if COVID-19 exposure does occur within a church group. Each individual will accept responsibility for their attendance decisions.
3. We encourage small groups to wait to gather until their participants have had access to COVID-19 vaccinations.
4. All groups meeting on church grounds must be scheduled with the church administrator, Suzanne Clark, at least two days prior to the meeting date.
5. No more than two groups will meet in the church building at one time, one upstairs and one downstairs. Space will remain vacant for two hours between groups.

6. To allow for adequate spacing between participants, the maximum number of people in the sanctuary or greeting area shall be 15 people and the maximum number of people in the downstairs space shall be 6. Larger groups should continue to meet via Zoom.
 1. Closed groups, where attendance is stable and predictable, may meet as long as the above criteria are met. An RSVP will help the convener estimate group size and reserve the appropriate room.
 2. Open groups, where a call has been sent out to invite all interested, will require an RSVP with a limited number of reservations available when meeting inside the church building.
7. All participants will self-screen for symptoms and/or a fever before attending any group gathering.
8. Group leader(s) will keep an attendance sheet with the date, time, names, emails, and phone numbers of all attendees in order to facilitate contact tracing should contagion occur for any member of that group.
9. Masks and six feet social distancing will be maintained at all times, both indoors and outdoors. If the weather allows, we advise increasing ventilation with open windows and/or doors.
10. No food or drink will be shared while on the church grounds. Participants may bring their own, closed drink container for personal use.
11. No singing will occur during small group gatherings.
12. In the downstairs, multi-use restrooms, only one person will use the restroom at a time.
13. The group leader(s) are responsible for enforcing these policies during the gathering.

Covenant: We will strive to be welcoming and inclusive for all. We agree that:

1. Group leaders will privately contact all members of the group before planning an in-person meeting to affirm that everyone who might want to

participate feels comfortable and safe meeting face to face. These queries should be private to avoid putting anyone “on the spot,” requiring them to discuss private information with the group or avoid the group in order to feel safe. The group will default to the needs of its most vulnerable members.

2. We will strive to meet the access needs of all participants. We will base our meeting location decisions on our capacity to meet those access needs in the chosen space, such as by attending to mobility, volume amplification, and other needs.

3. We will commit together to the following covenant at any in-person meeting:

I covenant that my primary concern is for the safety of ones in the group who are most vulnerable and that I will wear a properly fitting mask, maintain an appropriate distance of at least 6 feet from others, and use proper hand hygiene at all times. In being here I affirm that I am not experiencing symptoms of Covid such as fever or cough, and that I am not aware of any COVID-19 exposure in the preceding 14 days.