

Minutes for Reopening Task Force Meeting, 1/5/2022

Present: Viola Blackwell, Kevin Burns, Vini Frizzo, John Kim, Carol Pye, Bill Wade,
and Rev. Kent Winters-Hazelton

Kent opened meeting at 6:30 p.m.

John shared scope of increase in covid cases in Jefferson County. What was considered a high number of positive cases, 25/100,000, was reported last week at 189/100,000.

Megan had communication that Harvey Brown Presbyterian and several smaller churches in the Presbytery will not have in-person worship for the remainder of January.

Vini voiced concern over isolation of people. Viola suggested keep the service, but shorten it with less singing and no choir or bells. Bill asked about guidance from Presbytery. Kent said they are reporting what churches are doing. John said he is more concerned about small group gatherings (families or friend circles) than he is about our congregation for a shortened service. Carol suggested other discussions such as a different way of doing communion and Fellowship Hall Coffee Time be put on hold until the next meeting of this Task Force. Viola suggested the same for Fellowship Committee activities.

Kevin reported the youth group met in person on December 19 (one student later tested covid positive but there was no transmission to others). Michael Harper (new youth coordinator) is contacting youth in small group and by phone. He is planning monthly activities with the first to be held on zoom. Youth, Confirmation classes, and adult Sunday School classes will return to virtual this Sunday. Children will meet in person unless JCPS is virtual and then no children's Sunday School.

Vini will go ahead with a concert by Julia Cash on January 19. It will be in person and streamed (all music is public domain).

Kent suggested outlining in this week's "Week at a Glance" the safety reasons for temporarily shortened services. It was decided that through January 23, services will continue in person and virtually and will not include choir or passing of peace. Responses and hymns will be shortened. Seating will revert to every other row. He will also remind those who attend to sign the friendship pads for a record of attendance for contact tracing, if needed. It was also decided other programming should be virtual until the Reopening Task Force has again met to reevaluate.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.