

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes for Special Meeting on Resuming In-person Events
November 2, 2021, 7-8 pm
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Governing Board Members:

Jan Puibello, Chair	Tod Hibbard, Member at Large
Sylvia Wheeler, Vice-Chair	Gloria Korsman, Past Board Chair
Cade Murray, Treasurer	Rashid Shaikh, Governance Advisory Committee (GAC)
Carolyn White, Clerk	Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Julia Gallogly, Member at Large	Mandy Neff, Dir. of Lifespan Faith Development
Jane Stabile, Member at Large	

Jan Puibello opened the meeting at 7:00PM with a chalice lighting and check-in question.

The topic for the meeting centered on a document prepared by Carol Lewis and Mandy Neff, "Resuming Small Group In-person Events."

The Board responded favorably to the guidelines suggested in the document. A return to in-person gatherings would be limited in numbers. Livestream worship from the Barn Room would begin on January 16, 2022, initially with just worship leaders and musicians in the space but moving toward possible small groups of 20-25 congregants in February.

Topics covered were:

- Social distancing and Occupancy
- Entering and Exiting the Parish House
- Vaccines encouraged for attendees but required for all staff, worship/ritual leaders, worship participants and those working with children
- Face coverings and Hand Sanitizing
- Food and Drink – only individually packaged snacks, meals, beverages. No onsite preparation and no communal sharing. Masks may be removed to sip water but must be replaced.
- Music: Masks at all times; no group singing; soloists to maintain social distancing of 13 feet
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Pre-registration and Health Screening questions

Cambridge Minyan will purchase Hepa Air Purifiers for the Barn Room. First Parish will purchase air purifiers for the Parlor and/or Chapel based on recommendations from the Cambridge Department of Public Health.

The main discussion revolved around whether to verify proof of vaccination of attendees by requesting to see their CDC card. Alternatively, on the Registration for events, we could state on a Registration form that we expect people to be vaccinated, if it is possible. It was felt that as a church community, we have trust in the congregants. Signage in the church concerning the rules of masking would be helpful.

There was discussion about our level of transparency if there are cases of Covid as a result of attendance at an event, how contact-tracing works and concern was expressed about privacy of a person's health; that there needs to be a balance between transparency and privacy.

It was suggested that we would reconvene when necessary to review protocols put in place if, for example, the Covid infection rate increases or several attendees at a meeting become infected.

Based on this document, a vote was taken and the consensus was to resume small group, in-person events. The Board thanked staff members Lewis and Mandy Neff for providing this thoughtful, comprehensive, safe plan for resuming in-person events.

The Special Board Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM and an Executive Board Meeting Session was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn White, Clerk

Related Documents:

- *Resuming Small Group In-Person Events, Staff Proposal – Carol Lewis*
- *Guidelines for Use of Space during Covid-19, Winter 2021-2022, Mandy Neff*
- *In-Person Event Proposal, Winter 2021-22*

Approved by the First Parish Cambridge Governing Board on Nov. 16, 2021
Carolyn White, Clerk