

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes for Special Meeting on Resuming In-person Events
JANUARY 4, 2022, 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	Grace Hall, Governance Advisory Committee (GAC)
Carolyn White, Clerk	Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Julia Gallogly, Member at Large	Jane Stabile, Member at Large
Regrets: Mandy Neff, Dir. of Lifespan Faith Development	

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

The topic for the meeting was to re-start a conversation on Re-Opening for Sunday Services.

Several Board members had reached out to members of the Congregation to see how they are coping and to get their sentiments about in-person services, about services on YouTube followed by 11AM Sunday chats and Hybrid services.

There was no consensus. People have their preferences for one or the other.

Some may be seeking other churches. Are we filling people's needs? It was remarked that pledges are down.

Carol reported that the people helping with the video technology and musicians are very eager to help with Hybrid services.

We may need to review our protocols [see Nov 2 2021 Special meeting materials : the Staff Proposal of Oct 29 2021]

Metrics to use need to be selected which will help determine how many people can participate in-person depending on levels of community transmission at any given time. Flexibility would be required to adjust to the health metrics used. Other churches in the area are doing Hybrid services so we could consult with them.

The main concern is safety for all but especially for our Staff, who should have the last word.

A policy from another organization was shared which was of interest as it had a disclaimer that puts the responsibility on the person for his choice to

participate in an In-Person activity and not on the organization. The exact wording is:

*“[Organization] accepts no liability for in-person meetings, even within the guidelines, and members who meet in person do so at their own risk.”
(see full text below)*

It was suggested to communicate very soon with the Congregation. Jan and Tod will work on a message.

Julia said she would circulate a chart of other churches holding hybrid services. The Board members were encouraged to visit them either in-person or on Zoom to see a Hybrid service.

The Special Board Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn White, Clerk

Related Documents:

- Full text from FAUSA: (USA-based affiliate of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas) – from Carolyn White sent by email prior to meeting and copied below
- Chart of Local Congregations compiled by Julia Gallogly- sent by email after the meeting

FAUSA's Covid policy on meeting in person.

*FAUSA Covid policy: If FAUSA-related groups meet in person, they must be in compliance with the most recent [CDC guidelines](#) for gathering **and within the guidelines relevant to their location (city, county, state)**. Members who meet in person under any other circumstances do so personally and not in association with FAUSA. FAUSA accepts no liability for in-person meetings, even within the guidelines, and members who meet in person do so at their own risk. Activity and metro coordinators, please share this policy with their members prior to meeting.*

(Note: the CDC Guidelines link is now outdated and not updated. It now has this message: ARCHIVED WEBPAGE: This web page is available for historical purposes. CDC is no longer updating this web page and it may not reflect CDC's current COVID-19 guidance. For the latest information, visit CDC's [COVID-19 home page](#).)

Approved by the First Parish Cambridge Governing Board on Jan 18, 2022
Carolyn White, Clerk