

## **Establishment of FCCW Regathering Team**

### **May 19, 2020**

The FCCW Leadership Team authorizes the establishment of a Regathering Team to investigate, develop, and implement safe plans for the possible phased-in resumption of in-person worship and other in-building activities at the First Congregational Church of Winchester in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Charge**

The Regathering Team will create a flexible working plan with accompanying guidance for the possible resumption of in-person, in-building activities — including worship, choir, ministry meetings, children and youth faith formation classes, adult spiritual programs, small group gatherings, Ripley Presents events, tenant activities, service work, and other in-person functions. It is expected that the planning and implementation process will be iterative, and executed in prioritized stages as new information related to the Covid-19 pandemic becomes available over time.

### **Possible Actions**

- Collect input from the SNEUCC, peer churches, and other Winchester houses of worship regarding their findings and plans
- Consult with local and state public health officials, including meeting with them virtually, to gather information and direction
- Divide potential resumption actions into categories and stages (i.e. cleaning, worship, church school, meetings, events, etc...); each will likely be slightly different.
- Develop a cleaning plan for the initial return to the building as well as what will be needed for ongoing efforts in order to appropriately address heightened concerns regarding health and cleanliness
- Communicate with members of the congregation about their comfort in resuming aspects of FCCW's church life
- Work with FCCW tenants to gather their input and provide direction
- Develop a draft work plan/timeline for the resumption of appropriate activities, including re-entry education and training for staff, congregants, and tenants
- Explore alternative approaches for carrying out activities that require delayed resumption
- Consider safety lessons learned from Covid-19 (passing of the peace, one-way walking routes, Zoom as an ongoing meeting option, etc...)
- Bring major recommendations to the Ministry Team and the Leadership Team for feedback and approval before implementation
- Communicate guidance to congregation and provide support to ministries

- Implement the approved iterative work plan

## Membership

One member from each of the following, if possible:

- Ministry Team
- Leadership Team
- Diaconate
- Personnel Ministry
- Health Ministry
- Children and Youth Faith Formation Ministry
- Facilities Ministry
- Ripley Programming Group

One congregational representative from each of the following, if possible:

- Medical sector
- Emergency planning sector
- Legal sector
- Communications sector
- Governmental sector

It may be that there will be some overlap between these two groups, which will actually be helpful.

## Timeframe

The Regathering Team will commence its work immediately, meet as needed to develop an initial work plan including suggested timelines by 7/1/20, provide ongoing guidance to FCCW, continue its review with iterative recommendations, and conclude when the threat of the pandemic is well-controlled.