

This a copy of an email from Robert Dowling, Re-Opening Task Force Chair, which was sent to Governing Board Members on May 20, 2021. The Reopening Task Force Recommendations follow this email text.

Dear fellow Board members:

Attached is the Reopening Taskforce's report prepared following its meeting on May 18th to discuss the impact of the CDC's new guideline issued on May 13 for fully vaccinated individuals on the resumption of in-person services at the Fellowship. In brief, we are recommending in-person services with masking, but not distancing, be resumed for fully vaccinated individuals, with a live short range FM broadcast available for the unvaccinated and anyone who may feel uncomfortable attending in person. Our report also recommends that committees, task forces, etc. be allowed to use the building for in-person meetings, with masking and distancing only required for unvaccinated attendees.

We believe services should be resumed as soon as is reasonably possible. In-person meetings can begin immediately since they do not require the acquisition of new equipment or arrangements with speakers, etc.

The goal for services is to approximate as closely as is reasonably possible the service experience for the Fellowship as it existed before the pandemic and to do so quickly and efficiently. With the exception, initially at least, of congregational singing, the in-person services for masked fully vaccinated individuals will be the same as it was prior to the pandemic. Although we don't know how many persons in the Fellowship are unvaccinated or have serious underlying health conditions for which full vaccination and masking may not afford adequate protection, we believe they make up a small percentage. Nonetheless, the utilization of an inexpensive short distance FM transmitter which can be quickly set up will provide those persons the opportunity to hear the full service in their cars or outside. Podcast recordings of the speaker's presentation will also be available, as was true in the past.

While at some point the Fellowship may wish to consider live streaming or online videos of services, we feel the resumption of in-person services should not be delayed when there is an inexpensive and relatively simple way of allowing everyone who would be attending services in person had there been no pandemic the opportunity to listen to the entire service. The use of an FM transmitter won't preclude the use of live streaming or video recordings at a later date or have any bearing on the equipment or setup needed for such options. Nor will the cost of a transmitter meaningfully reduce funds otherwise available for other technology.

We feel the Board should act on the Taskforce's recommendation as soon as is reasonably possible. We request the Board schedule an emergency meeting prior to its next regular meeting on June 9, which is almost 3 weeks away. If our recommendations are adopted the Program Committee and other committees will need time to make the necessary arrangements for services. The FM transmitter will need to be ordered, set up and tested.

As noted in the report, one Task Force member did not agree with all of the recommendations. Accordingly, please keep this in mind when you see the term "we" in this email.

Bob Dowling

May 20, 2021

Reopening Task Force Recommendation for Resumption of In-person Services and Meetings

The Task Force met by Zoom on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, to discuss the impact of the CDC's May 13, 2021 guideline for fully vaccinated individuals on its recommendation for reopening of the Fellowship for services and meetings. All members were present and Sara, the Fellowship Administrator, also participated.

The Task Force is recommending the Fellowship resume services in the Sanctuary as soon as is reasonably feasible and also resume small group meetings with the following arrangements and limitations:

- We recommend that only fully vaccinated persons attend the services in the Sanctuary.
- Arrangements should be made for the broadcast of services over FM radio so that people in the immediate vicinity of the building, such as in their cars, could listen to them live. Live streaming and other ways of recording services can be considered by a Technology Committee at a later time.
- Non-vaccinated individuals, those fully vaccinated persons who have health conditions that may adversely affect their susceptibility to infection and/or to more serious consequences if infected and anyone otherwise uncomfortable attending services in person should be encouraged to listen to the live FM transmission of the service or to a podcast of the speaker's presentation.
- Those attending the service in person would need to wear a mask. Social distancing would not be required.
- In-person attendees would need to sign in to facilitate contact tracing should that become necessary.
- The Program Committee would make the necessary arrangements for speakers and service leaders who would be comfortable with the proposed arrangements for in-person services. Masking would not be required of speakers and service leaders when they are speaking. The Program Committee would decide whether talk-back sessions would be conducted. The Task Force does not believe any stricter limitations should be required for talk-back sessions than for the services themselves. The Program Committee should seek to limit the length of services to around 45 minutes.
- The Music Committee would make the necessary arrangements for performers who would be comfortable with the proposed arrangements for in-person services. We recommend against allowing Congregational singing at this time, but the playing of the piano or other instruments by masked performers would be permitted. In-person services can resume even if it is not feasible to have music initially.

May 20, 2021

- The Hospitality Committee should assess whether it is feasible to have post-service refreshments, perhaps with coffee only, outside, weather permitting.
- Meetings of smaller groups, such as committees, could resume immediately, with masking and social distancing being optional for fully vaccinated participants but required for non-fully vaccinated participants. It would be on an honor system. A sign in sheet should be completed for contact tracing purposes.
- The Reopening Task Force and the Board should review these proposed arrangements and limitations as frequently as conditions warrant, but no later than 30 days after resumption of in-person services.

The Task Force was not unanimous on all of the above recommendations. One member would recommend that, until conditions in Door County and Wisconsin are in the “safest” category as previously described by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, services be conducted outside for everyone who wishes to attend, with attendees given the option of masking and/or social distancing. That member would also prefer that small group meetings be held outside, with masking optional. If they were held inside then both masking and social distancing would be required.