



DATE: November 11, 2021
TO: UUCFM Members and Friends
FROM: UUCFM Board of Trustees
SUBJECT: Plan for Re-opening the Campus

Although we were regrettably unable to start in-person worship services in August as we had hoped, some members and friends have been carefully returning to campus for other activities. It has been wonderful to see each other and reconnect after such a long time apart. We hope to see many of you at the outdoor Homecoming Party and ice cream social on November 14!

The Board of Trustees affirms our continued commitment to these principles:

- Inclusivity and justice: We will not exclude people and will take special care that equity and anti-oppression are centered in our decision making.
- Safety: We will do our utmost to keep our people and the community safe. We will not contribute to community spread.
- Community matters: We value our community and being together. We will gather in a safe, inclusive way.
- Pro-science: We support vaccination for those who are able as a scientific, reasonable, and loving decision to protect yourself and others. We believe that vaccines are effective and trust the scientists who have worked on them.

The Board has determined that we will try again to return to live-streamed, in-person worship, with our first service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 21. Our ability to do so depends on the COVID risk for Lee County remaining at an acceptable level, and on everyone complying with these protocols:

- In an abundance of caution, unvaccinated and vulnerable people are encouraged to continue to worship through Zoom
- Everyone is required to wear masks and households should sit in socially-distanced groups
- During the worship service, one vaccinated, socially-distanced speaker or singer at a time may remove their mask
- Vaccinated and unvaccinated people may sing softly (or hum) with their masks on
- It is expected that staff, greeters, worship leaders, the tech team, and anyone working with children will be vaccinated
- The social hour after the worship service will resume when the transmission risk is low

Some of you have suggested that UUCFM should require negative COVID tests or proof of vaccination for anyone attending worship. The Board has concluded that such a practice would not meet our inclusivity principle, and that safety can be reasonably addressed through masking, social distancing, and the improved ventilation in both the Sanctuary and Hobart Hall.

The Board recognizes that there is no clear, definitive direction available on how to gather safely. The guidance we have developed is our best judgment at this time. We expect that each of you will consider the UUCFM guidance and each event in the context of your own situation and risk tolerance, and determine whether to attend in person.

The Board has also approved guidance for other congregational activities:

Congregational Activity	November 2021 UUCFM Guidance
Visits to campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individuals and members of the same household may visit the outdoor facilities at any time ● People wishing to visit the office are requested to make an appointment in advance
Outdoor Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unvaccinated and vulnerable people should wear masks and socially distance ● Vaccinated people are not required to take prevention measures
Indoor Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● With vaccinated and unvaccinated people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone should wear masks ○ Unvaccinated and vulnerable people should socially distance ● With only vaccinated people, prevention measures are not required <u>if all agree</u> * ● No food or drink until the transmission risk is low
Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings <u>with Singing</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All singers are vaccinated ● Singers are socially distanced from the audience and masked when indoors ● Indoor rehearsals are limited to 30 minute intervals, with time in between for one complete air change (10-20 minutes); everyone must leave the rehearsal space during the break ● Wind instruments are avoided
Faith Development for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All people working with children should be vaccinated ● Everyone, including children, should wear masks indoors ● As many activities as possible should be held outside

* See UUA guidance on covenanting agreement for in-person gathering
<https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/covenantal-consent>

Please contact Lane Cook, Board of Trustees president, at uucfmpresident@uucfm.org or 239-922-9406, with any questions or concerns you may have.