

**Ocala First United Methodist Church**  
**Re-Launch Task Force**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

**Members of Task Force:**

Mike & Teri Keepers, Mark and Jean Imes, Hank Harrell, Cheri Bedenbaugh, Lori White, Anne & David Fuquay

**Outline of tasks before us:**

1. Determine the policies and procedures required for re-opening church campus
2. Determine strategy and timeline for re-opening church campus.
3. Identify key leaders to implement the different parts of the strategy

**Key Considerations:**

1. What is permissible by law is not a key consideration.
2. We must ask what we can do safely (Do No Harm). Health experts have identified meeting together for religious services to be a medium-to-high risk activity. Whatever we do, we should seek to exceed the basic health guidelines from the CDC.
3. We must consider what is most faithful as a congregation. Opening the facilities for worship may leave out the most vulnerable members who do not feel comfortable gathering, or put them at greater risk if they choose to attend. Moreover, the requirements for gathering (masks, social distancing, no singing, etc) may adversely affect the integrity of worship.

**Action Steps:**

1. Write a detailed description of what is required in order to gather for worship, or other ministries. Paint a picture of the new reality to help set appropriate expectations.
2. Send out a survey to the congregation. Set-up a process to collect responses by phone from those without email/internet. Share #1 above and ask key questions:
  - a. Would you feel comfortable gathering under these guidelines? and when?
  - b. Would you feel comfortable with a RSVP for worship so leaders can prepare space?
  - c. How else can we assist you in worshipping at home (DVD's, etc)?
3. When the time comes to gather for worship, the first two weeks will be a beta-test. A select group of not-at-risk congregation members will gather to test the policies and procedures and offer feedback on the experience. Beta-Test should include Holy Communion.
4. Create a positive marketing campaign for wearing masks for worship. Emphasize the message "Love your neighbors – Wear a mask!"
  - a. Ask Shannon and Brooke to create fun PSA videos about mask wearing in church.
  - b. See if Vicky and/or David B. can write songs about mask wearing in church.
  - c. Record testimonials from church leaders/influencers about the importance of wearing masks at church.

**Other Considerations:**

- Without congregational singing or responsive elements spoken aloud (creeds, prayers), consider new worship practices appropriate for the guidelines (e.g. more instrumental pieces, meditative or guided prayers).
- Consider shorter services to ease stress of wearing a mask for extended periods.
- If in-person services are shorter, and the ideal online service is shorter, we need a solution for producing a 58-minute service for the Cox Broadcast.