

## **RE-OPENING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING SEPT. 23, 2020**

### **Present**

Chris Mortlock  
Topher Beck  
Margo Bettgar-Hahn  
Neil Eadie  
Mary Bee Haworth  
Marion Hearn  
Bill Jacklin  
John McFall  
Pirie Mitchell  
Arlene Roberts  
Karen Schuessler  
Vivienne Wardle

### **Welcome** Chris Mortlock

Chris was in the church parlour for the meeting. The parlour has been set up with chairs social distanced and a central table to hold the newly purchased Poly-Com speaker phone, which is used by committee members not able to attend a meeting in person.

### **Opening Prayer** Pirie Mitchell

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Stage 2 - Arlene**

Last Wednesday, the Leadership Council approved the implement of the Stage 2 phase proposed by the Re-opening Committee. This phase proposed committee meetings in person at the church, and the restart of rentals of church spaces to various community groups.

Due to the new guideline restrictions placed by the Ontario government this week, it was decided to err on the side of caution.

An email was sent out on Tuesday, Sept. 22, asking committee members to vote on two issues. The members agreed with the proposal to close down rentals at this time. Arlene called the representatives of the 2 NA groups that were meeting this week. Chris will contact the representatives with any further information.

The members agreed to limit in-person committee meetings to 10 members or less.

Marion Hearn was the moderator for the Ministry and Personnel Committee who used the parlour for an in-person meeting.

**Action** - Chris Mortlock to keep in touch with NA group representatives

#### **2. Stage 3 - Opening the church for in-person worship - All Members**

The committee discussed the original plan to re-open Wesley Knox for in person services on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11, 2020, taking into consideration the second wave of infections affecting Ontario.

The capacity of the church with social distancing is 40 congregants on the main floor only, and 80 people if we open the balcony. It was decided to use only the main floor for the first services, and then reassess.

The worship team would be made up of approximately 10 members: Pirie, Karen, readers, musical soloists, ushers.

There would be a total of approximately 50 people in the sanctuary for a service.

There will not be choir singing, but soloists could perform with a mask and shield. The congregation could be invited to hum along, but not sing.

a) There was a discussion of the minister wearing a mask during the sermon, or using a plexiglass shield around the pulpit. These plexiglass shields can be purchased at Costco. There is a distance of about 20 feet from the pulpit to the second row of pews, where seating of congregants would start.

**Action - Decision to be made concerning mask or shield. Shield would have to be purchased and installed.**

b) Setting up a Reservation System is vital to re-opening. Sign Up Genius and Eventbrite systems were discussed.

**Action - Arlene to register for Sign Up Genius Thursday, Sept. 24. Mary Bee and Vivienne to be administrators on the system and produce a form for congregants. John will help with technical problems. Margo and Linda Olson to contact congregants who do not have computer service to reserve for services.**

c) A discussion was held on live-streaming versus recording the service to be available on You Tube. John reported that live-streaming would involve an expenditure of \$15,000.00 for a basic system and there would be a lead time of a few months to upgrade the wifi in the church, purchase cameras, etc.

**Action - John will record the live service for later availability on You Tube. John will include a phone stream for people without computers to share in the service.**

d) The Leadership Committee will focus on the readiness of the Re-Opening committee to hold in-person services. Signage, a reservation system, adherence to Covid guidelines, and duties of ushers would all have to be in place.

The Spiritual Life Committee has been devising an usher system and plan to hold at least 2 practice sessions at the church. These session would include ushers and congregants to a total number of 30 to 35 people. These training sessions would include a short religious service led by Pirie.

**Action - Signage needs to be displayed to adhere to Covid guidelines. No person/committee was assigned this action.**

**Vivienne will contact the current usher list. If there are not enough people who wish to continue in this role, she could contact choir members. The Spiritual Life Committee will arrange at least 2 practice sessions, co-ordinating times with Pirie for the service.**

### **3. Music at Wesley-Knox - Karen**

The children's choir and Mysterium will start on-line choir rehearsals next Thursday, October 1. The Senior Choir will start online rehearsals starting Thursday, October 8.

### **4. Live-Streaming - John**

John discussed live-streaming and he has been asked by Leadership Council to get quotes on systems, and assess if there is a genuine appetite for this considering the money and time involved in setting it up.

**Action - John is getting quotes from 3 companies to present to the Leadership Council.**

## **5. Further Business/Questions**

### **What will the in-person services look/sound like?**

Karen and Pirie will organize a shorter service that would be similar to the virtual services that are being produced now.

### **Survey Monkey Results**

117 Total Results in total

Very Likely to attend a service even without a Covid vaccine	32.2%
Likely to attend a service even without a Covid vaccine	24.58%
Undecided	27.97%
Unlikely or Very Unlikely to attend without a Covid vaccine	16.95%

A majority of those likely to return for Thanksgiving Sunday are aged 65 and over. Younger families were not as likely to attend. The positive results of over 56% of respondents likely to return led the committee to keep the Thanksgiving Sunday reopening date and work towards that. The committee is aware that changes in government policy are beyond our control and we will have to adapt.

### **Electronics Recycling Day - Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Church Parking Lot**

The recycling will take place and several young volunteers have agreed to help. The sign in the Valu Mart Parking Lot has an incorrect closing time of 1 p.m. and should be corrected.

**Action - Mary Bee will call Mike Ryan to get a key to the sign and the closing time will be changed.**

### **Action Items from the last meeting:**

- Neil and Topher to look at options for sanitizer stands, with help from Arlene to check out pricing
- Discuss waiver further at the Sept. 23 meeting
- Communications for Newsletter - Chris? or Arlene? to provide info on Re-opening Committee

**Closing Prayer** Dan Leaver

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday, September 30, 7:30 p.m.**