



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 26, 2021 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Jeri Bigler, Dan DeZwaan, Kelly Goward, John Johnson, Sue Kremkow, Amy Schuiling, Shawn Skibinski, Karen Strickland, Sherri Swanson (non-voting member)

Absent: Ashley Forton

Devotions

Dan opened the meeting by reading Ecclesiastes 3 reminding us that for 'everything there is a season...' We need to keep in mind that good things can still be found in difficult times. We are encouraged to focus on the things we have learned throughout the last year and move forward with increased adaptability and our newly acquired skills.

Updating Restrictions

The focus of this meeting was to discuss and revise the restrictions that have been in place, based on recommendations from the state of Michigan and federal health regulators. Following is a list of decisions made for each item listed:

1. **Masks** - We will continue to require everyone entering the building to wear masks (regardless of vaccination status) for in-person worship, group meetings, etc. until July 1. After July 1, no masks will be required.
2. **Singing** - In-person worship attendees will be able to sing with masks beginning this Sunday (5/30/21). After July 1, masks will not be required for singing.
3. **Capacity** - We have removed capacity limits for outdoor events, effective immediately. Beginning on June 1 we will allow 50% occupancy in the sanctuary, which is 174 persons. After July 1 there will be no capacity limit indoors.
4. **Social Distancing** - We will continue to seat people in every other pew throughout June, and will remove markings on the floor to allow people to make their own decisions about gathering in the narthex. After July 1, the markings on our pews will be removed to allow people to sit wherever they wish.
5. **Reservations/Health Screening/Contact Tracing** - Beginning June 1, reservations and health screenings will no longer be required. We will continue contact tracing for inside

events (not required for outdoor) by collecting names and phone numbers or e-mails (can be just one contact per family) by paper or QR code. After July 1, no contact tracing will be required.

6. **Parking Lot Java Time/Coffee Hour** – Pending willing volunteers, a coffee/ socialization hour after church will be reinstated outdoors in the parking lot, possibly beginning June 13. Prepackaged snacks will be served to minimize cross-exposure. This event may be held weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly throughout the summer depending on available volunteers. It was suggested that we ask some of our youth to assist with moving tables and a few chairs outside. We plan to move this back into the gym in September.
7. **Outdoor Service** – An outdoor service is being planned for June 27 at 4:00 p.m. No protocols (masks, registration, contact tracing, seating requirements) will be needed.
8. **Funerals** – There are funerals on our calendar for July 10, July 17 and August 14. Since these dates all fall after July 1, there will be no need for masks, capacity limits, social distancing or contact tracing unless the families wish to do so. Luncheons following the funerals will be allowed in the gym with pre-packaged box or bag lunches (suggested: sandwich, chips, piece of fruit, cookie.)
9. **Room Usage** – Beginning immediately, the Kids Cave, Youth Room and Library will be available for groups to meet, in addition to the Lounge and Fellowship Hall. All room reservations must be scheduled with the Office Manager. Throughout the summer months, only two groups will be allowed in the building at a time. Groups meeting in June will be required to wear masks and sign in on the contact tracing forms. Masks and contact tracing will not be required after July 1.
10. **Youth/Children Programming** – Children and Youth may meet in the Youth Room or Kids Cave immediately. Masks should be worn by all children and adult leaders/ teachers during inside events throughout the summer. Social distancing of 3 feet is also recommended whenever possible. Masks and social distancing are not required for outdoor gatherings.

Weddings

A discussion was held regarding the performance of weddings (by our pastor) for all people who are part of our congregation. John Johnson made the following motion: To allow that the holy blessing of marriage be available to all members of our congregation.

Seconded by Jeri Bigler. All in favor. None opposed.

Adjournment

Our meeting was closed with prayer at 9:00

Next meeting: Saturday, July 17 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Schuiling