

## Reopening Town Hall Notes

*Re-Opening Q&A May 16, 2021 (recorded by Jerry Hensel)*

- 1) Are we going to have one or two services when we re-open? Our answer was that it is not decided. One service and zoom of that service has worked out well during lockdown.
- 2) Can this be an opportunity to do something new? We do not have to be frozen into making our services be the same as they were before lockdown. It would be great if we could find a way to allow RE Teachers and Parents attend the services.
- 3) We all know that making a big change is hard. (We may be sad when we have to change but great things can come from a change)
- 4) Vaccinations: Will we be asking if people are vaccinated before attending? We want to be inclusive with a high regard for safety for all.
- 5) The starting date must take Reverend Sarah's Sabbatical into account. (June 19-August 6)
- 6) A question of Sanctuary capacity came up.
- 7) Rusty pitched for a project manager to manage the tech side of our church. I understand that he has had multiple volunteers.
- 8) Safety concerns: No one on the Board is comfortable with saying no masking.
- 9) There is a concern that our area there are a lot of anti-mask feelings and COVID deniers.
- 10) Many might be comfortable with not wearing masks.
- 11) What about the Choir and Musicians, will they need to be masked? Who will be required to wear masks and who will be enforcing mask rules?
- 12) Not all who are not vaccinated are anti-vaxxers. Allergies to the vaccines, bad reactions may lead some to not want to get the vaccine.
- 13) We do believe that people will behave more responsibly in the Northwoods Community.
- 14) There will be some self-selection of people who will not come at the beginning when we open.
- 15) Church business meetings will probably stay online mostly to avoid travel.
- 16) Millbend wishes to start up as soon as we give the go-ahead.
- 17) Can we have a zoom service and an in-person service at the same time. (not sure that this means, I would assume a zoom of the in-person service)
- 18) Can we have Adult Forum and RE Before the service, to allow people to get to lunch bunch.

*Highlights from Sunday May 16 Re-Opening Town Hall discussion (recorded by Margaret Davis)*

Sarah announced that there will also be a Zoom session on the topic of re-opening coming up Wednesday May 26 at 6 PM.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) are concerned and talking about re-opening. In particular, BOT does not want to require vaccination for persons in the building attending service (or otherwise).

It is a matter of privacy AND there can be valid medical reasons a specific person is unable to be vaccinated.

Plus, members could have young children at home who are still too young for COVID vaccination. As well as immunocompromised family members/partners at home to whom you do not want to bring the virus.

Plus, ours is an inclusive community by choice. And we want to attract visitors, not potentially raise a barrier by requiring vaccination before attending as a visitor.

Rev. Sarah said that we had gained 15 new members in this past ZOOM year. Some who had been around earlier but some who had never attended an in-person service.

Signing-up ahead of time was also mentioned as a possible way to make sure we do not "overflow" the congregation for in-person services.

If we do decide to require masks for entrance to our building, who will enforce this? We would have to have masks on hand to provide. Who will fund this in the long term?

Also, who wants to turn someone away either for no mask OR because the in-person attendance limit would be exceeded?

We talked about having ONE in-person service, not going to TWO services again anytime in the immediate future. The one service could also be hybrid (Zoom AND in-person).

We had videos during the service while we were still in-person. There is no reason to expect we can't have videos during in-person services in the future.

Someone said that they would like to see 10 AM Adult Forum followed by 11 AM Service. Then Lunch Bunch could go out before 1:30 PM.

Someone also said that two services would enable RE teachers to both teach AND still attend service (and not have to give up one or the other, etc.).

BOT is not looking for "perfection. Instead, looking for "Good enough for now. Safe enough to try."

Rusty mentioned that Northwoods was currently in need to someone who could act in the capacity of Project Manager/Team Player Lead/Supervisor for all the technical aspects of the Worship Services. This would be a huge role to fill on an ongoing basis.

Rev. Sarah also mentioned that she has a mini-Sabbatical coming up from mid-June, all of July, and the first part of August. We have already lined up Sunday Zoom speakers. So all of those Sundays while Rev. Sarah is off will certainly be Zoom Sundays.