

(Notes)
COVID Task Force Meeting—May 26, 2020

Present:
Linda Foreman
Tina Bessias
Pastor Scott Anderson
Vicar Anna Carter
Janet Seiz
Dean Redman
Joan Albright

How do we best move forward? What and who do we want to be on the other side of this?

Use the Guiding Principles of the NC Synod Council—likely to be approved on Saturday, May 30, 2020
Also use city and state guidelines, denominational and synod guidelines, CDC guidelines; policy digests the science for us

Liability insurance—someone would have to prove that we were negligent in following guidelines

What are our non-negotiables?
Health and safety of members and staff

This is a long term situation. We originally thought this was going to be a sprint, but is now a marathon with an undefined end date. We want this season to include flexibility, resilience, wonder.

We want the work that we are doing to carry us through this situation—with flexibility

In thinking through scenarios, the congregation needs assurance that we are working on this and that we have plans in place for various scenarios.

We want to offer them hope—while maintaining control of what we can in this situation

Susan did an informal poll with 17 churches in the area and most of them are not going to begin meeting until mid to late June

How can we focus the work of the task force and the life of the congregation around our 4 guiding principles—worship, hospitality, compassionate service, and teaching and learning?

Think about a chart with the guiding principles as the rows and levels of restrictions as the columns ranging from maximum restrictions to an unrestricted level

Providing this continuum of activities and plans that can ebb and flow with the conditions and capacity will be very helpful for council, staff, and congregation

How do we think about groups that also meet in our building? Growing Through Grief, 12 step, etc.

How do we educate the congregation about what are doing and why we are doing it? We need to educate them to help manage the false expectation that we will go back to who and what we were before this all happened. We will be transformed by this—quote from Pastor Ali's sermon on 5/24

We cannot maintain during this time, we need to grow

As we lay the groundwork for changes/new ways of doing things, can we share what we are reading and listening to...

Even in this time, how are we authentically living out our guiding principles?

How do we begin to think about baptism, communion—in person, continue drive through, funerals/memorial services?

Tina and Linda will work on the chosen metaphor that we will consistently use in our communications

Joan and Dean will think through worship and building logistics

Janet will work on created an annotated bibliography of sources

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10 at 7pm.