



**Minutes
Parkminster United Church
COVID-19 Working Group**

**Wednesday, January 5, 2022 – 6:30 pm
via Zoom Video Conferencing**

God is calling us to be an evolving community of faith inspired to embrace our future as we:

- *Deepen our commitment to each other*
- *Nurture our spiritual vitality and growth*
- *Live a life of loving influence in the world*

| Working Group Members | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rev. Heather Power | Karen Schertzberg – M&P Chair | Franceen Wagner – COVID-19 WG |
| Jennifer Allan – Chair | Richard Jackson – Secretary | Bert Blackburn – COVID-19 WG |
| | Carolyn Machan – COVID-19 WG | Barb Leask – COVID-19 WG |
| Regrets | | |
| Rev. Joe Gaspar | Kathy Shortt – Past Chair | |
| Guest | | |
| Neil Murray | | |

1. Welcome - Jennifer

Jennifer recognized this as the last meeting of the COVID-19 WG at which Karen Schertzberg may be present on account of her planned vacation in February. Jennifer thanked Karen for her time of service and always responding to questions with a practical and down to earth approach. We have all appreciated her voice and wise counsel during the past year.

2. Opening Prayer & Lighting of Candle - Rev. Heather

3. Approval of Agenda – Jennifer

Motion: THAT the Agenda be approved.

Moved by Franceen Wagner; seconded by Bert Blackburn; passed.

4. Approval of Minutes – Jennifer

Motion: THAT the Minutes of the December 8th WG meeting be approved.

Moved by Richard Jackson; seconded by Carolyn Machan; passed.

Motion: THAT the Minutes of the December 19th WG meeting be approved.

Moved by Richard Jackson; seconded by Franceen Wagner; passed.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Church Service Format (including rehearsals, etc.)

The Provincial Guidelines [<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures>] under Step Two of the **Roadmap to Reopen** now include modifications that take into account the province's successful vaccination efforts.:

- Capacity at indoor weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites and ceremonies will be limited to 50% capacity of a particular room.
- Outdoor services are limited to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance.



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- Social gatherings associated with these services must adhere to the social gathering limits.
- Social gathering limits will be reduced to 5 people indoors and 10 people outdoors.
- Indoor concert venues, theatres and cinemas will be closed, but rehearsals and recorded performances are permitted with restrictions.

Given these restrictions, the following options were discussed:

- i. Fully remote services from home
- ii. Fully remote services from the sanctuary
- iii. Hybrid services with capacity limits and registration

Music and rehearsals

Neil's would prefer to stream live from the sanctuary on Sundays and to rehearse soloists in the church. He believed that we should cancel Bell and Choir rehearsals and re-evaluate our situation at our next meeting.

Motion: THAT we remain broadcasting from the Sanctuary with no congregants present until the next COVID-19 WG meeting on February 2, 2022 (implying a review at the next COVID WG meeting). Moved by Barb Leask; seconded by Franceen Wagner; **passed**.

Motion: THAT the Bell and Voices United Choirs will no longer rehearse in the Sanctuary, although soloists or duets may rehearse there. Moved by Barb Leask; seconded by Franceen Wagner; **passed**.

Action: Jennifer will communicate this decision to Council and the congregation for inclusion in What's Up.

Action: Jennifer will contact Mary Reynolds (Membership) to gauge willingness of the volunteers to attend the Welcome Table and Usher when in-person services are scheduled to begin again.

(b) Information re Vaccines for Children

A survey of websites was undertaken regarding the measures that community organizations are adopting with respect to vaccines for those under 12 years of age. The information is summarized in Appendix 1 and indicates that there is no single policy in effect at present. It was agreed to re-visit this issue at our next Working Group meeting, while continuing to monitor websites to determine if appropriate organizations have converged on a single policy.

(c) Tenants and Groups

For the tenants and other groups, amendments were made to their Safety Plan resulting from the last WG meeting, (see Appendix 2) which included:

MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS - CHANGE: Medical vaccination exemptions will no longer be allowed for congregants, groups or tenants. Double vaccination is required for everyone over 12 years of age.



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INDOOR EATING FOR GROUPS, TENANTS - ADDITION: Indoor eating for tenants and outreach groups is allowed if physical distancing of 2 meters is observed. Masks may be removed for eating only.

Re Step 2 Guidelines for Tenants and Groups– the provincial government’s website <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures> indicates that

- All publicly funded and private schools will move to remote learning starting January 5 until at least January 17, subject to public health trends and operational considerations.
- School buildings would be permitted to open for child care operations and to provide in-person instruction for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated remotely.
- Day and overnight camps are closed.
- Indoor sport and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms, will be closed.
- Indoor food service closed.
- Businesses that provide in-person teaching or instruction (such as cooking classes, music classes) must operate under the following conditions: indoor areas closed, except for organizations that provide health and safety training (with conditions); outdoor areas open with restrictions in place, such as physical distancing.

Melanie Chisholm heard from both of our paying tenants on Jan 4th (KW Karate & ALIUD Alternative, which both have safety plans on file) that they’ve decided to suspend their operations until early February due to COVID-19, pending further notice from the church.

In addition, the WG determined:

- ArtShine (safety plan approved by Church Council Dec. 15, 2021) is a day camp is therefore suspended;
- Mindful Makers (safety plan approved by Church Council Dec. 15, 2021). is a day camp is therefore suspended;
- 13th Guides & 8th Pathfinder & 9th Pathfinder troops (safety plans on file) can only meet outdoors but may use the toilet facilities;
- 9th Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Venturers troops (safety plan on file) can only meet outdoors but may use the toilet facilities;
- Gay Men’s Social Network (safety plan on file) is a social group, constrained by the gathering limit of 5 people. We recommend the group be suspended;
- ACCKWA cooking circle has not yet provided a safety plan. We recommend they not use the church until revisited in February.
- Down Syndrome Society cooking class has not yet provided a safety plan. We recommend they not use the church until revisited in February.

A Building Use chart is attached as Appendix 3.

Action: Jennifer will communicate these decisions to Melanie Chisholm and ask that she relay the information to the various groups. Jennifer is also to ask Melanie to advise the Scouting/Guiding groups (broadly defined) that they can only meet outdoors, but should that



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be the case, they may use the toilets inside. However, when outside, they are limited to 10 persons. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures>.

Action: Jennifer will advise Liz Forde (Inclusive) that ACCKWA will not be able to use the church until this issue is revisited on February 2, 2022.

6. Any Other Business

Wedding request: Rev. Heather Power announced that Kathy Shortt and Ted Oldfield wished to host the wedding of their daughter Alyssa to her fiancée Leo, preferably in the Sanctuary, if not at the Shortt/Oldfield home. The Working Group agreed that it was acceptable to use the Sanctuary because the Step 2 guidelines would be met. Rev. Heather Power will perform the wedding ceremony. Neil Murray and Terry Ridgeway will also be in attendance.

Motion: That the Shortt/Oldfield family be permitted to use the Sanctuary this weekend for the wedding of their daughter, understanding that capacity limits for religious ceremonies will be observed. Moved by Karen Schertzberg; seconded by Carolyn Machan. **Passed.**

7. Closing Prayer - Rev. Heather

8. Next Meeting: Feb 2nd – 6:30 pm

9. Appendices

- 1: Information re Vaccines for Children
- 2: Amendment 2 to Safety Plans
- 3: Building Use chart for information on the tenants

APPENDIX 1

Research on Vaccines for Children 5-12 Years

City of Waterloo [COVID-19 response - City of Waterloo](#)

- As of December 20 proof of vaccination or valid exemption will apply to all 12 to 17 year olds entering recreation facilities

City of Kitchener [Proof of vaccination - City of Kitchener](#)

- The Province of Ontario requires residents to show proof of full vaccination when entering certain indoor settings and facilities. This policy impacts community centres, arenas, indoor pools and other city facilities.

Waterloo Minor Hockey [Waterloo Minor Hockey](#)

- All programming paused January 5, 2022
- This is a reminder that starting *January 4, 2022*, **ONLY** the **enhanced vaccine certificates with QR codes** can be used by all ages as proof of vaccination when entering City Facilities.

Kitchener Minor Hockey

- All kids under the age of 12 years must be double vaccinated to join the 2022 season in the fall.
- Presently they are not requiring full vaccines since the season ends in April.
- KMHA suspended all games in December.

Scouts Canada [Programs: Overview \(scouts.ca\)](#)

- Ottawa, ON – September 15, 2021 — Scouts Canada is introducing a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy that will apply to all eligible youth, adult members, participants and staff. As of November 1st, 2021 full vaccination will be required for all in-person Scouting activities across the country. Requiring mandatory vaccination will help contribute to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and its variants and help our communities thrive.
- Throughout the pandemic Scouts Canada has taken a principled approach to ensuring that Scouting can continue to provide youth the opportunities to discover and grow. We now have the opportunity to take a leadership stance that reinforces that commitment to our communities and our members. The evolving pandemic, the significant up-take of vaccinations across the country and signs of an emerging fourth-wave among unvaccinated individuals has prompted Scouts Canada to introduce a vaccine mandate for all eligible youth, adult members, participants and staff. Public health officials continue to advocate strongly for vaccination as the most critical step to bringing the pandemic to an end, Scouts Canada supports this position. Youth need Scouting more than ever to get back to doing kid things. Vaccination will help us get there.
- “This new mandate will provide clarity and assurance to parents, members and volunteers,” said Andrew Price, Executive Commissioner and CEO, “It is also in keeping with our core values of being responsible citizens and civic leaders within our communities.”
- At Scouts Canada, we believe the health and safety of our youth and adult members is priority #1, and a responsibility for all to share. Considering the on-going risks posed by COVID-19, this new mandate will require full COVID-19 vaccination for all members including youth (who meet vaccination eligibility requirements), Scouters, parents, adults, staff and helpers who intend to

Research on Vaccines for Children 5-12 Years

participate in-person at Scouting activities on or after November 1, 2021. We are asking our Scouts Canada members to play an essential role in helping stop the spread of the virus and its variants so kids can be kids again. Any individual who cannot be vaccinated based on medical or religious reasons can request an exemption and will be accommodated. Those who remain unvaccinated will be able to participate in virtual activities.

- In addition to this new Scouts Canada policy, Scouts Canada will continue to follow all federal, provincial and local legislation as it relates to full vaccination requirements.

[COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(scouts.ca\)](#)

- ***NEW* Will Scouts Canada implement a vaccine mandate for children 5 to 11 in 2022?**
- We have learned over the last two years of the pandemic, that we must continuously adapt to new information. We cannot predict what the situation may be like in a month, let alone several months into 2022. Scouts Canada will continue to monitor and evaluate, follow our guiding principles and shape our responses and policies accordingly.

Girl Guides [COVID-19 information for families - Vaccination policy \(girlguides.ca\)](#)

- Updated November 22, 2021
- You can be confident that Guiding will be there for girls this year – with all the safety protocols you’ve come to expect from us.
- All girls 12+, adult members and non-member volunteers must be fully vaccinated to take part in in-person activities. This includes indoor and outdoor activities, regular unit meetings, camping and outdoor experiences, and in-person cookie selling. Members who do not self-declare they are vaccinated will be offered opportunities to participate in Guiding virtually.
- Our Return to In-Person Guiding protocols are informed by recommendations from Ministries of Public Health across the country and we are continually monitoring current COVID-19 data in every region.

[COVID-19 information for families - Vaccination policy \(girlguides.ca\)](#)

- **Will Girl Guides of Canada’s vaccination policy be updated to include members between the ages of 5 and 11 now that Health Canada has approved COVID-19 vaccines for this age group?**
- At this time, GGC has not made the decision to update our vaccination policy to include 5 to 11-year-olds. We will continue to monitor the vaccine rollout across Canada in the coming months and any updates to the policy will be shared with our volunteers and Guiding families.

APPENDIX 2

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH AMENDMENT #2: December 22, 2021

Please attach this document to your most recent safety plans as these amendments are effective immediately.

Amendment #1: dated October 29, 2021 (approved by COVID-19 Working Group Oct 26, 2021 – emailed Nov 2, 2021)

Amendment #2: dated December 22, 2021 (approved by Church Council Dec 15, 2021 – emailed Dec 22, 2021)

1. **MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS - CHANGE:** Medical vaccination exemptions will no longer be allowed for congregants, groups or tenants. Double vaccination is required for everyone over 12 years of age.
2. **INDOOR EATING FOR GROUPS, TENANTS - ADDITION:** Indoor eating for tenants and outreach groups is allowed if physical distancing of 2 meters is observed. Masks may be removed for eating only.

NOTICE:

VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12: Parkminster is considering requiring that children 5 years to 11 years old participating in tenant & group programs be fully vaccinated. This will be discussed further by the COVID-19 Working Group in the new year.

APPENDIX 3

PARKMINSTER BUILDING USE - rev. January 5, 2022

| DAY | TIME | NAME | ROOM | TYPE | FREQ. | NOTES as of January 5, 2022 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| MONDAY | | | | | | |
| A.M. | | | | | | |
| P.M. | 6:30-7:30pm | 9th Beavers | Gym | community outreach | wkly | expected in Jan - return date unknown |
| | 6:30-7:30pm | 7th Guides | Corner classroom | community outreach | wkly | inside |
| | 7:00-9:00pm | 9th Pathfinders | Double classroom | community outreach | wkly | inside |
| | 7:00-9:00pm | Gay Men's Social Network (mtg) | Family Room | community outreach | last Mon of the month | inside |
| TUESDAY | | | | | | |
| A.M. | 10:00am-3:00pm | ALIUD Alternative | Double classroom | tenant (\$\$) | wkly | inside - but has suspended classes eff immed. |
| P.M. | 5:00-9:00pm | WRDSS Youth Cooking Class** | Kitchen & Hallway | tenant (\$\$) | wkly | no return date given to office |
| | 5:00-9:30pm | KW Karate | Gym | tenant (\$\$) | wkly | inside - but has suspended classes eff immed. |
| | 6:30-8:00pm | Cubs | Double classroom | community outreach | wkly | expected in Jan - return date unknown |
| | 6:30-8:00pm | Venturers | Corner classroom | community outreach | wkly | expected in Jan - return date unknown |
| | 7:00-9:00pm | Gay Men's Social Network (euchre) | Family Room | community outreach | 3rd Tues of the month | inside |
| WEDNESDAY | | | | | | |
| A.M. | | | | | | |
| P.M. | 6:30-8:30pm | 13th Guides | Double classroom | community outreach | wkly | inside |
| | 6:30-8:30pm | 8th Pathfinders | Corner classroom | community outreach | wkly | inside |
| | 6:30-8:30pm | Scouts | Gym | community outreach | wkly | expected in Jan - return date unknown |
| | 7:00-8:30pm | Bells | Sanctuary | PUC | wkly | inside |
| THURSDAY | | | | | | |
| A.M. | 10am-3:00pm | ALIUD Alternative | Double classroom | tenant (\$\$) | wkly | inside - but has suspended classes eff immed. |
| | 10am-2:00pm | ACCKWA Cooking Circle | Gym & Kitchen | community outreach | 3rd Thurs of the month | no return date given to office |
| P.M. | 5:00-9:30pm | KW Karate | Gym | tenant (\$\$) | wkly | inside - but has suspended classes eff immed. |
| | 7:30-9:30pm | VU Choir | Sanctuary | PUC | wkly | inside |
| FRIDAY | | | | | | |
| A.M. | | | | | | |
| P.M. | | | | | | |
| SATURDAY | | | | | | |
| A.M. | | | | | | |
| P.M. | | | | | | |

NEW TENANTS as of January 2022:

>> **Mindful Makers:** approved bookings on file: January 21, PD Day, March Break and Summer Camps (July & August)

>> **ArtShine:** approved bookings on file: March Break; possible future bookings for weekly classes & Summer Camp (July/Aug)

****RETURNING TENANT - WRDSS** (Wat Region Down Syndrome Society)

currently shows one time slot - past rentals have been 2-3x a month; tenant to advise dates once return is confirmed for 2022.

WORSHIP RECORDINGS:

onsite recordings occur in the Sanctuary as needed: minsters, AV tech, musicians (choir, bells, band, soloists)