



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

**Thursday May 4, 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	Kathy Shortt – Past Chair	Franceen Wagner – COVID-19 WG
Rev. Joe Gaspar	Sue MacQueen – Secretary	Bert Blackburn – COVID-19 WG
Jennifer Allan – Chair	Jeanne Foster – M&P	Barb Leask – COVID-19 WG
		Wendy Ridgway – COVID -19 WG

**Regrets: none**

**1) Welcome – Jennifer Allan**

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

**3) Approval of Agenda – Jennifer**

**Motion: THAT the Agenda be approved.** Moved by Bert Blackburn; seconded by Wendy Ridgway; **passed.**

**4) Approval of Minutes – Jennifer**

**Motion: THAT the Minutes of April 7, 2022 be approved.** Moved by Wendy Ridgway; seconded by Kathy Shortt; **passed.**

**5) Business Arising from the Minutes**

**(a) Relaxing Safety Plans of Parkminster**

A checklist of restrictions that could be relaxed has been included as Appendix 1.

Concerns regarding rising local wastewater COVID levels were expressed. Robust discussion around items to be relaxed as well as the need for clear communication and signage that reinforces the messages: “We care about each other – please wear a mask” and “We care about each other – have you pre-screened yourself today?”; as well as how to kindly approach someone who may not be wearing a mask with that message that we do this because we care about each other in order to avoid the appearance of ‘policing’. Moving forward, it was felt that if the Welcome table could be moved to just inside the front doors with signage and a supply of masks, there would not be the need to have people at the table.

We are extremely grateful to Mary Reynolds, Virginia McQuay and Mary Willsie for their time and dedication in being at the Welcome table, doing screening and checking vaccination status each week since Parkminster re-opened.



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**Motion:** THAT the COVID-19 WG recommend to Council that our Worship Safety Plan be changed to allow for:

- i. Entry without documentation of double vaccination;
- ii. Entry without formal pre-screening (personal pre-screening still encouraged); and
- iii. Passing of the Peace - handsfree

Moved by Jeanne Foster; seconded by Franceen Wagner; **passed**.

**Action Item:** Jennifer to work with Kathy Shortt updating the safety plans and then to introduce them to Council for approval.

**Action Item:** Jennifer to follow up with Melanie regarding signage for Welcome Table

**Action Item:** Jennifer to follow up with Mary Reynolds re volunteers/greeters/usher duties and the possibility of restarting coffee/juice time outdoors.

**Action Item:** Jennifer to add our appreciation for Ginny, Mary and Mary to her message to the congregation or What's Up

**6) New Business:**

- (a) Food Trucks: Discussion regarding the use of church washrooms during Food Trucks – picnic tables are now out and there may be more need for washrooms if people are staying and eating on site.

**Motion: THAT Food Truck Patrons be encouraged to wear masks when using washrooms, but this will not be mandatory; volunteers will limit the number of people entering the church building at one time.** Moved by Jeanne Foster; seconded by Kathy Shortt; **passed**

- (b) TCOW Event: Discussion regarding whether or not the TCOW group could use the gym for their potluck event if weather is poor.

**Motion: THAT the TCOW group be allowed to use the gym for their potluck event in case of inclement weather.** Moved by Kathy Shortt: seconded by Bert Blackburn; **passed**

Further discussion emphasized the importance of future requests being treated similarly for consistency.

- (c) Future COVID-19 WG meetings: Decided that the amount of discussion and decision making would be unwieldy to pass onto Council at this time. The WG will continue in June, take July and August off, and then resume late August/early September in order to provide guidance for worship safety for the fall.

**7) Any Other Business: none**

**8) Closing Prayer - Rev. Joe**

- 9) **Next Meeting:** Wed June 1st – 6:30 pm Since Sue is unsure whether she will be available on this date, Wendy has graciously volunteered to take minutes. (Thanks Wendy!)

## APPENDIX 1

### Relaxing Safety Plans of Parkminster United Church

As we determine we are comfortable allowing these changes we can indicate the date and notes on any process/procedure/communication that is required.

#### Worship Safety Plan

<b>Allowing</b>	<b>When approved at WG</b>	<b>When approved at Council</b>
Entry without checking in for contact tracing	March 2/22	March 15/22
Group responses	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person announcements	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person Welcome Statement	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person readings (masked when not reading)	March 2/22	March 15/22
In-person joys and concerns from pews	March 2/22	March 15/22
Hymnals in pews	March 2/22	March 15/22
Bibles in pews	March 2/22	March 15/22
Congregational singing with masks	March 2/22	March 15/22
Youth programs in church	March 2/22	March 15/22
Name tags	March 2/22	March 15/22
Hugging with discretion and permission	April 7/22	April 19/22
Handshaking with discretion and permission	April 7/22	April 19/22
Candle lighter	April 7/22	April 19/22
No explicit physical distancing but continue to encourage	April 7/22	April 19/22
Coat racks	April 7/22	April 19/22
No capacity limits in elevator	April 7/22	April 19/22
No out of bounds areas	April 7/22	April 19/22
Increased family worship space capacity	April 7/22	April 19/22
Entry without double-vaccination	May 4/22	
Entry without formal pre-screening (encourage personal screening)	May 4/22	
Passing the peace - handsfree	May 4/22	
Entry without mask wearing		
Paper bulletins provided		
Passed offering plate		
Choral singing with masks		
Choral singing without masks		
Congregational singing without masks		
Soloists without screens		
Water fountains		
Closed windows		
Fans on		
Children's programs in church – Sunday School		
Coffee-hour in church		