**Cleaning (How: Method & supplies, who is responsible, extra costs and bulk buy)**

**Insurance & Legal questions**

**New Digital Reality**

**Worship & Personal Hygiene & Physical Distancing**

**Faithful Discerners and Pastoring the more vulnerable**

**Being Responsible for our buildings and General Access**

**Rental Relationships**

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**Large Events & Long Term Reality**

**Cleaning (How: Method & supplies, who’s responsible, extra costs and bulk buy)**

Difference between churches with full time cleaner, part-time cleaner, hired company, or volunteer cleaners

Concern how to maintain cleaning standards

How much increase in cleaning time will be needed

Conversation about increased costs, and how we will bear these costs

Could we buy in bulk (masks, hand sanitizers, etc) as a region

What about churches that will not have resources or personnel to do this?

Share cost of cleaning product bought in bulk

Can we have guidance for purchasing cleaning supplies? Can the RC help with the funding of this extra need?

Dans le cas d’une charge pastorale à plusieurs lieux de culte, est-ce que chaque lieu de culte doit être nettoyé à chaque jour ou seulement les jours où le bâtiment est utilisé?

A question out of the breakout group was is financial help available from the Region to COFs to help cover the additional costs related to opening in particular for cleaning? It is clear that the open or not and if yes for what or whom questions will be with us for a while. I also guess that the cleaning question was a wake up call as an issue not focused on

We talked about increased cleaning costs and responsibilities.

VERY concerned about cleaning requirements – many churches use volunteers, not equipped to super clean. If church is only used on Sunday, does it have the same cleaning requirements? It will be a BIG change, requiring more and potentially expensive products

Washroom cleaning

Church with no paid custodian

Capital expenditures, cost of sanitizer, masks, etc.

Buying in bulk of sanitizers, masks, etc.

About St. Columba House and Montreal City Mission: they are located in downtown, more high-risk areas and serve many vulnerable people. Do they have the finances to purchase the necessary protective equipment?

Cost of work that needs to be done – Cleaning

Cost of Purchase of Masks and other supplies that will be needed

Mind boggling the amount of work that will be involved.

Could financial help come from Regional Council

The financial burden of daily cleaning of the churches

Financial assistance available for the extra costs associated with reopening? Supplies, equipment, etc.

Most of buildings are huge and the constant necessary cleaning that will be needed will be very difficult to manage and maintain

What about shared spaces between congregations – and cleaning between services? What about age limitations?

How are we going to pay? Some congregations are already strapped for cash. Are we talking 100$ or 1000$? Is there United Church funding?

Il faut aussi tenir compte des coûts supplémentaires qu’entraînerait pour chaque paroisse d’appliquer les règles de désinfection.

Priorities in cleaning – investing in cleaning supplies, tape off 6 ft spaces in the pews

Possible relaxing of some cleaning standards.

For churches that only use the building on Sunday morning/sanctuary only, does building need to be cleaned every day?

How to disinfect the sanctuary (eg. St James and Chalmers-Wesley!- large sanctuaries)

**Insurance & Legal questions**

Will there not only gov’t and UCCan regulations, but also insurance or other demands

Insurance? Vacancy clauses. Looking for guidance to making sure we are following insurance rules. Does the building need to be regularly checked on?

Will we be fined if we do not follow every rule of protocol?

Liability of reopening – insurance requirements, etc. and how to mitigate that, such as signing of releases by those entering building

**New Digital Reality**

Concerns about those who do not have online access, and make sure that they are not left behind.

Est-ce qu’on peut créer des « remote site » si l’espace de l’Église n’est pas suffisant pour permettre à un plus grand nombre de personnes à participer aux cultes.

We talked about how moving services on-line has been a blessing, and how, even when we move to phase 3, we have to be sure we maintain the community that has taken root on-line. Many new people have joined due to this Crisis, we can't forget them when it is over.

All present all our group are using on-line platforms for weekly worship. Most have no plans for tomorrow but we’re very relieved to have heard Peter’s report and will take his plans to their councils who have been pressing for opening sanctuaries and rentals. This will take the pressure off them. St. John Church, Ontario, I think, and Highland United Church in Highland British Columbia has been Zooming for a year at the same time as holding the same service in the sanctuary with people phoning in to the audio because they don’t have internet access.

Concern: serving those without computers at home. How can we support low-technology people in meaningful ways? Often people without computers are also the most vulnerable (for example, our elders). For this reason connecting with them is even more important.

Zoom or other programs shouldn’t be let go of when moving back to in person worship

Seeing increased attendance online, with those who were unable to attend in person now able to participate.

How do we offer worship to those who are unable to attend alongside those who are attending in person

Coffee hour before and after including breakout groups

Be aware that not everyone has Internet access – use letters, phone calls

Zoom a un double effet : certaines personnes ont cessé de « venir » aux cultes; d’autres qui ne venaient pas avant nous fréquentent via Zoom.

Youtube/Facebook live : How do you create community in the one-sided platforms like Youtube and FB?

Devant ces contraintes, nous avons énuméré des avantages aux cultes par Zoom ou autre moyen Internet.

Will on-line presence continue? And will this be reason for people NOT to attend church?

**Worship & Personal Hygiene & Physical Distancing**

Masks: Who provides them? Where to acquire?

Avoir des inscriptions à l’avance (peut-être par Internet ou téléphone) afin de pouvoir limiter le nombre de participants. Avec une inscription, les communautés de foi auraient déjà un registre avec les coordonnées au cas où on aurait besoin de tracer les contacts.

Beaucoup d’incertitude autour de la musique. Qu’est-ce qui est possible? Qu’est-ce qui n’est pas possible?

Pour la musique - avoir seulement un soliste

Quels seront les « best practices » autour de la célébration de la Sainte-Cène?

On parle beaucoup des bâtiments mais comment se rassembler et célébrer un culte dehors ?

Si la charge pastorale a plusieurs bâtiments, regarder la possibilité d’ouvrir un seul lieu de culte pour commencer.

Indiquer au préalable, d’une manière ou d’un autre (autocollants, rubans ou autres), les places où les gens peuvent s’assoir sans avoir à s’inquiéter de la distance.

We talked about having masks and cleaning liquids at the door. (Available at drug stores)

We talked about ministers wearing face shields during the service, so that lips can be seen by the hearing impaired.

Ian recounted the Lutheran minister’s point by point opening a church for the first time, starting with the masked greeter who questions person by person before entering the building and making sure the line up is spaced 6 feet apart and demands they wear a mask and restriction after restriction etc. etc. The group unanimously agreed that no in building services should move to that stage for some undetermined time in the future.

Recognize assumptions – companies may be able to insist on masks, so can communities of faith? Do we have to provide?

Concerns about when can worship together – assume no bulletins, no hymnbooks but not all equipped with screens and projectors, so how? Those who use cushions must bring and remove every time

We reflected on ways in which outdoor meetings might be safer (air circulation, fewer surfaces, more space for distancing). However, in some Urban churches, there is very little space outdoors.

Worship is working well for many (especially those with technology and more urban) but still the challenge of connecting with individuals.

What about outdoors? Recent funerals have only allowed 10 using orange cones to mark distancing

For our churches, will we have hand sanitizers, protective clothing and face masks for reopening.

As we come together: we will have potential cultural shifts in how we worship. For example, perhaps no singing or responsive prayers. How do we prepare our communitiies for these shifts?

A recommendation to circulate important websites and resources that can help us with these church cultural shifts.

Some churches may prefer to stay on Zoom (for worship, etc)

Worship: may have to ask people with medical challenges not to attend

masks should be mandatory for all attending services - COF should provide masks to those lacking

the minister might use a face shield rather than a mask so that his/her facial expressions could be visible during services, especially sermons.

hybrid services - have both limited attendance in-person in sanctuary and also video broadcast over the Internet for those unable or unwilling to attend in person may become the new norm

regretfully, no socializing before or after services - no coffee hour

Questions about the availability of masks

Consider worshipping outside where possible

Prepackaged communion elements

Opening of worship should say “Here we are all gathered, scattered” (hahaha)

Province and presentation did not cover outdoor worship. Currently allowed max 10, but will grow bigger – need amplification.

By the time everything gets approval we'll be back in the buildings. Can't take advantage of outdoor worship because window is too small.

Assumption that everyone will wear masks, but difficult to mandate in volunteer organizations. Peer pressure may help

As a solution: Integrated worship – zoom church plus (gathering in person in part and on zoom in part)

How large is large?

If we have to spread out, what kind of allowances do we have to make for HH/deaf people?

Distancing can be impossible in some sanctuaries based on available space, needing reservation to be able to attend church?

Do we have to segregate and separate generational a possibility?

Hoping that this is for now and that we find ways to adapt until we can also include in person activities and worship

What are summer practices? How would that be impacted too? For those that swap between churches (groups of 10 churches that rotate services each week) it could lessen impact, however does that increase attendance numbers?

Il est très difficile de maintenir la distanciation avec les enfants, comment assurer la sécurité lors des activités pour les jeunes - surtout des plus jeunes (école du dimanche)?

La question de ne pas pouvoir chanter ou de ne pas pouvoir avoir une chorale entre aussi en jeu.

Our communities are mostly small – “where 2 or 3 are gathered” that’s the whole community

What about large outdoor gatherings? What about pot lucks?

Finding ways of worshipping, but not fellowship

All of our favourite parts of church are not yet allowed to reopen such as fellowship, singing, personal contact/distance, it would be excluding many who are vulnerable

How do you apply physical distancing rules with young children, does this exclude the First Third Ministry? And the other considerations/restrictions related to young children and families?

Sunday School gathering space outside of the main worship hall

Outdoor worship suggested as possibility where there is space for distancing – is this permitted? Negatives – not the same feeling; concerns about physical distancing from city folks

Interments – Cowansville told to consult SQ; Arlen has done interments as Mt. Royal cemetery.

**Faithful Discerners and Pastoring the more vulnerable**

Concerned about confusion. Can we make sure we use good language and not say that churches are closed, the buildings are closed.

Concerns of how we will continue our ministry of presence when we can’t be present.

The main theme of our breakout was just how profound church is being changed. We started off talking about how our relationships with renters and other community organizations who use our space are going to be radically changed. We talked about how different church will be until there is a vaccine. Vulnerable people not being able to join. No singing. No fellowship time.

Recognize that there are many different emotional responses based on personal experiences (have been sick, know someone with COVID-19, know someone who has died/ have tried to support through a funeral process, have family and friends in long-term care facilities….

Recognize Risks – many of communities of faith are in vulnerable age including many ministry personnel. Guidelines of what is acceptable keep changing. Local spaces and locations vary, which affects risk.

about health issues of older congregation.

We have a lot of older and vulnerable people in our churches, so we need to be extra cautious.

How can we balance the message of government with the recommendations of science, especially concerning 2nd wave of the pandemic?

A general thought that being more careful is better. A thought about finding consensus before moving forward with reopening.

We should address the fears people will have when reopening, we need to be attentive to the emotional pieces

Are we ever going to be able to go back, and that is a large concern for those who are vulnerable and suffering in isolation, how can we expect them to go back if they’re vulnerable

We don’t know what the future will look like and what the variables will be, such as what if we proceed and have to go backwards with the reopening?

Large populations that can't go in because of age. No such thing as zero risk.

All we can do is offer well defined, controlled risks.

Vivre un culte sans avoir l’aspect social serait décevant (pouvoir discuter, se faire l’accolade, prendre un café ensuite).

Si nous rouvrions les églises, certaines personnes plus âgées ne pourraient quand même pas s’y rendre. Il faudrait alors penser à leur retransmettre le culte via Internet, ce qui pourrait entraîner d’autres déboursés.

La situation actuelle permet de comprendre la réalité des personnes qui, pandémie ou pas, ne peuvent se rendre à l’église parce que malades, handicapées ou trop âgées. Ceci devrait être mentionné lors des cultes en ligne pour transformer notre expérience actuelle en soutien à ces gens.

Sometimes it looks like it’s never going to happen

D’entrée de jeu, les détails de la présentation Power Point précédant notre discussion ont refroidi nos ardeurs quant à la réouverture des lieux de culte. Les aspects suivants ont été mentionnés.

Ensure those people that are isolated are contacted

Ensure caring support is available on a long-term basis

Establish a pastoral care group with a phone list to inform people of procedures being implemented (or use Zoom for the same purpose)

Concerns on personal/psychological level

**Being Responsible for our buildings and General Access**

CONTROLLING ACCESS: Who has building access keys, Enforcing access to building, A controller assigned

Are sanctuaries open for staff, organists and ministers, now?

How do we control access reasonably

How do you enforce

Importance of tracing: who is coming in and out of building. Many people served in Missions do not have identification cards. This may make tracing difficult. At St.C there are more than 25 active programs. It may be challenging to protect each of these groups at the same level.

May decide to open in October.

**Rental Relationships**

Rentals responsible for cleaning. Bathrooms a serious issue

Cleaning requirements clearly communicated to rentals

Si une communauté de foi tient ses cultes dans le bâtiment d’une autre communauté de foi (St-PIerre se réunit à Chalmers-Wesley), est-ce que cette communauté de foi est considérée comme un « locataire »?

Quelles sont les responsabilités légales des propriétaires et des locataires?

Very concerned about being responsible for cleaning up after tenants. Are we responsible or are they? What can we require of tenants and how manage/police?

Fear whether we can do the work.  Each tenant will have to be consulted to decide how to operate.

Liability for failure to follow protocols

Loss of tenants

Rentals are a big concern (loss of income) - Extra precautions for groups of seniors

Rentals: Concern re: evening rentals that may have to be cancelled due to the fact  their use of church building would require a second cleaning of facilities - the revenue from the rentals would likely not cover the costs.

Question: If you rent your space, whose responsibility is it to clean – the renters or the owners?

Concern about kids in day care, do children have the hygiene measures, comfort for anxiety.

As tenants and landlords, negotiating how to follow rules and agreements; one landlord has tenant (also CoF) who not following the rules which makes it unsafe for all the others

South West leases to Baptists ½ hour after their service

**Request for Information & Concerns about Planning**

Please post presentation, report and webinar on large

Est-ce qu’il y a quelqu’un de la région qui pourrait faire une présentation pour les comités des communautés de foi?

Could planning teams of the different COF get assistance from Regional Council as to how to proceed if they feel lost when reading the document

How to support each other by dissemination general information to all communities of faith, e.g. by posting info in newsletter

Créer des groupes de travail dont les membres font partie des deux communautés de foi (propriétaires et locataires).

Government guidelines must be followed but has changed with time, so we need to keep checking website

Missions rely heavily on volunteers. How can we keep our volunteers safe?

Lack of resources (people ) for special planning committee

How to support one another to open safely

How to share what we are doing and what is working

Do not overload people with information

Keep in mind that the particularity of each situation is different

Need to educate some people about proper social behaviour, e.g. wearing a mask, establishing distancing behaviours, get the message out to those people that do not care about following the rules

Ensure that people do not get sloppy in terms of following the rules

Send out an information letter – could be especially useful in smaller or rural communities of faith

Lots of volunteers needed to coordinate the reopening, for all of the necessary steps

Health and safety policies and procedures

We didn’t have a lot of time on this part as the concerns took up most of the discussion time however the main point was that everyone felt it will be very imperative to follow the protocols as set up

Churches who have personnel officers/ Health officers who can help in implementations.

What freedom from the UCC do we have?

With all due respect for the process, I think it should be different for little rural places that are essentially family churches (I can think of at least half a dozen) than it is for big city churches. Even in our “group of seven” there was a range of size and other differences.

**Large Events & Long Term Reality**

Uncertainty about handling large-scale events. e.g. community suppers, bazaars, fall fairs, etc.

What is a large number? Considering phase 3.

Concerns about Christmas gatherings – big fundraising time for the church

St. James usually receives about 25,000 tourist type visitors a year especially in summer. Chalmers-Wesley is in a different but similar situation. What to do?