

UPDATE

Dialogue around In-Person Stewards' Meeting For Seekers Community 7/1/23

Background

The issue of when to start meeting in-person with the Stewards was raised at the Stewards' meeting on 8/22/2022 . At that time there were several Stewards who expressed a desire to meet in-person again in the Sanctuary. Others expressed hesitancy about doing so.

At the same time, The SLT conducted a survey of the whole community about people's thoughts on returning to the building for worship, doing a Zoom service, or continuing with a hybrid service. Results of that survey showed that Seekers had **varied** responses to in-person gatherings in the sanctuary.

Peter and I met on 8/29/22 to discuss the SLT survey results as well as our own current thoughts about what made sense for the Stewards **at that point in time; i.e. August 2022**. We concluded that it made more sense to think about continuing to hold Stewards meetings on Zoom and reconsider a shift to *meeting in-person in the Spring of 2023* based on the following criteria:

- There was uncertainty about COVID-19 and its spread in the Fall of 2022 but there was a forecast that there will be a *significant* wave in Fall and winter driven by the new omicron variant.
- A number of Stewards are immune compromised but healing and getting stronger.
- Construction all around our building, with extensive digging and concrete pouring going on this Fall/Winter, affects air quality.
- Winter driving brings challenges for many of us as well as parking issues.
- Other groups are beginning to meet again in the Spring, providing more experience about using the building for larger groups.

Peter and I met on 3/28/2023 to discuss again the issue of returning to Seekers' space on Carroll Avenue to gather in person for our monthly Stewards' meeting. We both agreed that our Stewards' meeting should be **all zoom** or **all in-person** and that although we are moving closer to meeting together, it was still somewhat premature given a number of factors impacting our membership. At that time we would re-consider at the July 2023 Stewards meeting.

Current Situation and Issues

- Many of the criteria for not meeting in-person have been resolved, we have learned to live with them, or are not as concerned about Covid
- We encouraged folks last month to think about the issues for themselves and determine what are their own interests and comfort levels to meet in-person at Seekers
- Do we want to continue zooming or go back to meeting in-person starting in August 2023? Pros and cons?
- If we meet in-person, do we mask during the meeting? What time would we want to meet? Do we have a meal together?

Peter Bankson
Joan Dodge