

Dialogue around In-Person Stewards' Meeting
For Seekers Community
3/29/23

Background

The issue of when to start meeting together in-person with the Stewards was raised at the Stewards' meeting on August 7th. 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.

Fall 2022 Assessment

Joan and Peter met on 8/29 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.
- In the Spring, other groups are expected to begin meeting again in the in the building, providing more experience about using the building for larger groups.

Spring 2023 Assessment of Current Situation

Joan and Peter met on March 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 is still somewhat premature given a number of factors impacting our membership. These factors included the following:

- There was still uncertainty about COVID and its spread despite the careful efforts of folks.
- Several Stewards are still immune compromised or in relationship with others who are high risk. However, these members are getting stronger.
- Construction all around our building, with extensive digging going on affects air quality.

Recommendations

- Continue Stewards' meetings on Zoom for now; consider meeting in-person in August but revisit the issue again in July's agenda.
- Encourage folks to think about the issues for themselves and what is their own comfort level to meet in-person.
- If we meet in-person in August, do we mask during the whole meeting? Do we have a meal together? What time are we meeting?

Peter Bankson
Joan Dodge