

**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DES MOINES
UPDATED POLICIES ON IN-PERSON MEETINGS AND EVENTS
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 15, 2021**

Congregational Policy Objectives

There are diverse viewpoints among the members of our congregation about the advisability, and willingness, to meet in person given continued public health concerns. Our respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and our acceptance of one another and the goal of encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation requires us to recognize and to the best of our ability, adapt our policies to meet the needs of all.

The widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccine and the growing need of many members of the congregation to come together in community in person has led to planning for expanded in person programming in recent months. At the same time, many other members public health and personal health concerns lead them to prefer and/or need remote and virtual options into the future.

Recognizing this, and respecting the needs and viewpoints of all, the Board is committed to:

- Ensuring high-quality multiplatform delivery of church programs are available, including both remote and in-person options going forward
- Allowing members to make personal choices as to their methods of participation in church activities while accepting personal responsibility for any risks associated with their choices
- Encouraging all members to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) when making decisions on their personal participation in church programs
- Adopting policies and procedures relative to in-person gatherings which minimize possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus or risk of members contracting the disease while participating in church activities and modeling reasonable public health practices to the broader community in doing so
- Continued monitoring of public health conditions with the advice of our Lens of the Future committee and amending or adapting our policies and procedures whenever necessary to address the best interest of the congregation in light of any changing circumstances.

Specific policies on allowable activities/restrictions

- Church-sponsored events held indoors or other events in the church building are open only to persons who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19, persons who have not been fully vaccinated due to a medical exemption, and those who are not eligible for vaccination by the date of the event.
- All participants attending indoor church-sponsored or other events in the church building where two or more persons are present except for staff working at their personal workstation are required to wear properly fitted and appropriate facial coverings.
- Persons attending in person events must register their contact information and vaccination status with the church upon their initial participation for purposes of any follow up contact tracing as might be necessary.
- Individual preferences for appropriate physical distancing at in person events will be noted and to the extent possible options to provide greater distancing as desired will be made available for in person events.
- Portable air purifiers must be operating when more than two people are present in a classroom or similarly sized rooms in the church building.
- Singing by Choir and congregation members in the auditorium is allowed with appropriate masking and distancing standards followed.
- Food and beverages may be served during both indoor and outdoor events with appropriate safety precautions and protocols.

Continued monitoring of public health situation and best practices guidelines

- The board will continue to rely on the Lens of the Future committee to monitor the Risk Level as published by CovidActNow.org as well as the CDC Guidelines, the response of local and state governments, and the guidelines and recommendations of the UUA.
- If the Lens committee feels a change in current policies or procedures is warranted, they will forward such recommendation to the Board for consideration.
- The Board will continue ongoing communication with the Congregation on policies, and necessary procedures to implement policies, and prompt notice of any changes as they may arise.