

COVID Rapid Response Team  
April 2021 Board Report for Consent Agenda

CRRT continued meeting at least twice a month during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 to continue helping the church manage its response to the pandemic and any state mandates. In this quarter, Lane County moved from Extreme risk to High risk on February 26<sup>th</sup>, then continued making progress on risk level so that on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the risk level lowered to Moderate with further improvement in the following two week so that on March 26<sup>th</sup>, the category for risk became “lower” risk. However, recent data indicates a move back to a higher risk level on April 23, 2021.

**Old Business -- March 2021 program planning for Flowering of Cross**

This progression in lowering risk of COVID as well as the increase in vaccination rates prompted much discussion of ways to slowly re-open the church to church members, church ministries and the community while keeping everyone safe. In this last quarter, all requests for building access were granted with no denials.

Out of the discussion arose the Flowering of the Cross as an outside event with individuals wearing masks over the face, which was coordinated with the worship team. The Flowering of the Cross event was well-attended but stressful. People that attended were joyful about getting to see other members while trying to maintain social distancing.

The plan developed by the CRRT was executed well with recognition in the post-evaluation that improvements in the way communion was performed need to be done. In addition, we realized that the CRRT plan did not take into account needing to be in places in the church to move items in and out that were not planned for. Therefore, this was a good chance to learn what is necessary for having face-to-face church services in the future in a safe manner while following the state mandates and CDC guidelines.

As we look at slowly re-opening, the chapel is ready and we are waiting for a part for the ventilation in the Sanctuary. In addition, developing protocols for use of the building by the music team and other ministries (CMT) with awareness that custodial staff will be needed to clean after use.

**New Business - April 2021 - facing an increased risk level in Lane County**

As we have moved into Spring, we are training volunteers from each ministry in COVID protocols to serve as Compliance Ambassadors to support the custodial staff. As we learned with the Easter event on 4/4, training for the compliance ambassador requires a multi level, experiential process with pre-teaching, day of reminders, and immediate evaluation necessary for troubleshooting and confidence building in the volunteer. The more persons in the church that can learn the mandates and practice them, the better. We need more persons willing to serve in a leadership role and remind others of these mandates until it becomes a shared knowledge and understanding in the congregation.

Because of a few incidents where people have entered the building prior to requesting building access, an incident report has been developed. The incident report includes information describing the events, names of all persons involved, protocol breached and the action taken by the reporting person. The report is filled out 24-72 hours following the incident with the report sent to the CRRT and to the supervisor of the person(s) responsible for the incident. The incident report is vital for contact tracing, liability, and helps us track where further training in COVID protocols may be needed.

We will update the congregation after April 23 if Lane County has entered a new risk level and will continue to follow the risk guidance found here:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3461.pdf>