**Proposed Guidelines for Small Group Meeting for Worship on FMC Lawn**

We are mindful that many in the FMC community are longing to share Meeting for Worship together in person. Therefore, we are considering whether to, and how to, safely hold small Meetings for Worship on the lawn at 5 Longfellow Park. There are multiple considerations to making this possibility a reality and the COVID Response Group is hosting a Threshing Session on Saturday 12th September from 3 – 5 pm to elicit perspectives from the community as a whole. The Threshing Session will be an opportunity to consider the following Guidelines, as well as the queries highlighted at the end of this document.

**Proposed Guidelines**

1. The FMC lawn will hold a maximum of about 40 participants with chairs placed at a safe physical distance. However, we may limit the size of meetings to a lower number. All participants will need to sit 6’ apart *including members of the same family*. There will be markings on the lawn to designate precisely where chairs may be placed. All chairs should be placed precisely within the designated spaces. We will start by filling in spaces at the front of the lawn facing the play structure and closest to the Meetinghouse completing each row prior to starting another one. We ask that you do not place a chair anywhere other than a designated space and fill in the spaces in each row prior to starting another row. This will ensure that people are not walking in front of or cutting between each other as the chairs are placed.

2. Participants must bring their own chair. No chairs will be provided by FMC. Hats are recommended for sunny weather.

3. An efficient online reservation system will be established to allow participants to sign up on a “first come first served” basis. The reservation system will cap the number of participants so as you sign up you will know immediately whether you are among the individuals who will be allowed to attend on the date you have selected.

* If individuals arrive at FMC even though they are not on the “approved list” of participants, they will be told that they can form small groups of under a set number of people on Longfellow Park and be reminded that they need to be at least 6’ apart from anyone else who may be joining their group. If people have already formed a group with the set capacity, additional attendees should start another group separated by at least 10 feet from the prior group, continuing to maintain a 6-foot separation from one another.

4. All participants *must be* ***correctly*** *wearing* a face covering on arrival and continue wearing the covering for the duration of the time they are on FMC property. Face coverings must be fitted, cover the nose, mouth and chin of the wearer. To limit COVID exposure to members of our community, participants will not be allowed to attend if they are not able or are unwilling to abide by this guideline.

* A designated individual will be monitoring appropriate use of face coverings and will be reminding individuals as necessary how to wear a face covering effectively. It is vitally important that members of the community adhere to any request to change the position of the face covering to ensure that it is effectively used as protection.

5. Individuals will be expected to exercise good judgment and not attend if they or members of their family or other close contacts have been exposed to known COVID cases in the past 14 days, have a fever, cough or other signs of illness, or lost their sense of smell and/or taste.

6. All participants must maintain safe physical distance – keeping six or more feet apart ***at all times***, including arrival and departure from FMC property. Entry and exits points to/from the lawn will be identified.

7. Hand sanitizer will be made available, but individuals are encouraged to bring their own.

8. FMC will maintain a record of all attendees in case contact tracing is needed. If overflow groups are on the Longfellow Park lawn, a similar record will need to be maintained.

9. There will be no shared objects, food or beverages. While we understand that fellowship often involves shared food and beverages, we are acutely aware of the problems the pandemic presents and believe the safety of our community is paramount.

10. We recognize that vocal ministry may be hard to hear since we will be outside. However, sharing a hand-held microphone presents some additional risk. Therefore, we will not be providing access to hearing devices or a microphone.

11. There will be *no access to the Friends Center, including restroom facilities.* We are putting this restriction in place to protect the safety of the five individuals who are living in the Friends Center as well as staff who occasionally must work in the Center. If an individual is in distress and must have access to a restroom, the restrooms downstairs by the First Day Classrooms will be made available.

12. There will be extremely limited parking available at the rear of the Meetinghouse. Please be mindful that these spots should be available for those individuals who have mobility issues. Cambridge resident parking restrictions do not apply on Sundays, so there should be adequate local on-street parking available if the meeting is held on Sunday.

13. FMC host(s) will be available to welcome participants and to ensure that the guidelines are adhered to throughout arrivals, Meeting for Worship, and departures. Please be respectful of the FMC Host(s) as they monitor adherence to these protocols thereby promoting the safety of the community.

**QUERIES FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. **Should we hold a Meeting for Worship on the lawn?**
2. **When should Meetings for Worship on the lawn be held? Should we plan for more than one Meeting for Worship each Sunday? Are there additional considerations in planning for multiple Meetings for Worship?**
3. **Since it will be hard to hear spoken messages and they can lead to viral-spreading, should we mandate the Meetings for Worship on the lawn be silent?**
4. **What should be the procedure if someone arrives without a face covering and says they cannot wear one due to medical reasons?**
5. **Should there be any restrictions on the participation of children?**
6. **Do we need to plan for a rotation system that ensures that there are different people among the participants who come to each Meeting for Worship on the lawn?**
7. **Should we establish a Waiting List to handle those who want to attend a Meeting for Worship on the lawn after capacity has been reached?**
8. **What plans should there be for determining that Meeting for Worship should not be held due to inclement weather? How are participants to be notified?**
9. **There are multiple roles that will be needed to support each Meeting for Worship and therefore a need for multiple volunteers to accept these responsibilities. How does FMC ensure that each of these roles are filled for each Meeting for Worship and ensure that the burden does not fall on a small group of volunteers? Who takes responsibility for ensuring that these roles (Care of Meeting; Greeter; Observer/Monitor; Record Keeper; etc.) are filled each Sunday?**

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