

## **UUCR Policy for Building and Ground Usage During the COVID Pandemic – November 2020**

Based on [recommendations from the UUCR Reopening Committee](#), the UUCR Board of Trustees affirms the prior policy of being closed to large and small group gatherings, with the following clarifications:

### Access to UUCR Buildings

- Access to the buildings is allowed for the Minister, Staff, and Finance Team for congregational work that cannot be done virtually.
- Access is also allowed to individuals working with staff for worship services.
- The buildings may be accessed by renters with existing agreements with board-approved re-opening plans:
  - MC Church of Christ for recording worship (sanctuary only)
  - ECC parents, teachers, and children (building 2, parking lot, and playground only)
  - Justin Furnia for music instruction
- Work that is required for building and grounds maintenance is permissible. The Congregation Administrator **must** be [notified in advance](#) for building access.
- Access to the UUCR building in emergency situations in which the safety of individuals or groups is threatened is permissible.
- Any other access to the buildings will need to meet a high threshold for approval, including that there be no reasonable alternative approach to meet the need. Such requests should be submitted to the Board, through Brian Haugen at the email address below.
- **UUCR buildings are otherwise closed.**
  - Groups may not gather for discussions or meetings at this time.
  - If items from UUCR are needed, arrangements must be made with the Congregation Administrator for pickup outside the building.
- In **all circumstances when people enter UUCR buildings**, masks must be worn, and a safe distance must be maintained.

### Access to UUCR Property and Grounds

- UUCR property is not enclosed, but it is private property. Neighborhood groups and classes are not allowed to gather on the grounds, but we welcome pedestrians and cyclists passing through the property. Signs set the expectation that all visitors to the grounds will wear masks and take appropriate precautions to maintain a safe distance from others.
- UUCR members and friends may meet briefly (5 minutes) on the grounds as necessary to exchange items, but masks should be worn. The Congregation Administrator should be notified in advance. No access to the building will be permitted.
- UUCR outdoor meetings or other sustained gatherings are not permitted at this time.

**Questions about this policy may be directed to Board member Brian Haugen at: Secretary20-21@uucr.org**

Frequently Asked Question: (as addressed by UUA Guidelines)

Why are UUCR recommendations more stringent than schools and businesses in Rockville?

- As a community of inclusion and collective care, we don't want to create in-person situations that inadvertently exclude those at higher risk or create situations that force those at higher risk to publicly identify themselves.
- The membership of our congregation includes many older or otherwise more vulnerable populations than the general public.
- We do not want congregational staff, the interns and our minister to be put at risk on the job.
- A normally-operating congregation presents too many opportunities to spread a highly contagious respiratory virus like COVID-19.