

Post COVID-19 Church

Subtitle

FOR THE POST-COVID-19 WORLD

- 8 Steps for Churches to Prepare – Blank Slate
- 7 Shifts Churches need to make – Tony Morgan
- 5 Practices to help in Finding our New Normal – Susan Beaumont

8 Steps for Churches to Prepare for the Post COVID-19 World

The Blank Slate – Thom S. Rainer (Growing Healthy Churches Together)

STEP #1: CLOSED-END SMALL GROUPS WILL BECOME PERMENANTLY DIGITAL

Open-End Groups

- Eg: Sunday School
- Ongoing Programs without an end date

Closed-End Groups

- Eg: Bible Study, Confirmation???
- Which have a definitive End date

STEP 2: SENIORS' ADULT MINISTRY WILL HAVE A DRAMATIC CHANGE

- They will be the last to return.
- Seniors in this category are those who are considered to not to be the Baby Boomer Generation but their parents.
- They would be digitally acclimatized (those who have ventured into this realm) and hence more receptive

STEP 3: ELEMENTS OF SOCAIL DISTANCING WILL BE PERMENANT

- Not to the same degree as now.
- Might become less publicly touchy going forward. Physical contact might be more reluctant, at least for a while.
- Physical distancing through proper spacing, even within the church might need to be made a possibility. Increase the number of services to accommodate and prepare for reduced numbers in each service.
- Major factor for guests
 - Make hand hygiene stations available at the entry
 - Aesthetically clean

STEP 4: COMMUNITY OUTREACH WILL MOVE TO THE COMMUNITY

- More Missionally focused.
- The Church needs to find a way to go out than invite the community to come into the church.

STEP 5: IN-PERSON GATHERED CHURCH WILL BE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT

- Following the isolation protocols, etc., the need for gathering in-person especially for Worship will become more prominent and important.
- However, other in-person activities might be reconsidered.

STEP 6: CASH GIVING WILL FADE QUICKLY

- Cash/ loose change in Offertory Plates will dwindle
- Prepare for automated giving.

STEP 7: MORE CHURCH BUILDINGS & SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE

- From an Evangelical/ Fundamental Church Perspective – Church Planting...
- More conversation around Fostering/ Adopting instead of closing/ buying
- Multi-site church

Fostering

- Temporary
- May or May not lead to Adoption
- To help for a definitive period of time.
- Empower to be able to sustain on their own.

Adoption

- Permanent
- Bringing another into your family.

STEP 8: BUDGETS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

- Have a few options
- Prepare for 2 budgets
 - Best Case Scenario
 - Worst Case Scenario

7 Shifts Churches Need to Make because of the Coronavirus

Tony Morgan (The Unstuck Group)

“When do you
think we’ll be
able to
reopen our
churches?”

“How must the
church change
for a New
Normal?”

“When do you think we’ll be able to reopen our churches?”

Preparing for the Long Haul .

- “most of us will not be returning to large social gatherings, including church services, until widespread testing and vaccines are available. That’s going to be many months from now.
- “Even when they do loosen, the majority of people, especially older people and those in the high-risk categories, will not immediately return to our church gatherings.
- “I think church leaders need to be planning for a full year before large social gatherings are happening throughout the entire country without restrictions. Are you prepared for that?”

“How must the church change for a New Normal?”

Interruptions Jot us... forcing a reaction.... Ultimately provoking us to act.

- This interruption will strengthen the church's mission.
- 7 Shifts

SHIFT 1: SHIFT FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL

Preparing to adapt to this change including making necessary staffing changes to align with the new reality.

Digital is here to stay. Churches need to shift to making this a primary platform for everything they do rather than just a stream of their Sunday services.

CLICK TO TWEET



SHIFT 2:

We need to help people move from consuming teaching content to engaging a personal, spiritual journey to follow and become like Jesus.

Move from the traditional way of teaching people using one-way communication rather than equipping people with the tools and resources they need to engage.

SHIFT 3: SHIFT FROM GATHERING TO CONNECTING

Gathering

- Less time even Pre Pandemic
- Programs decline

Connecting

- Build relationships
- **God designed us to need one another.**

SHIFT 4: SHIFT FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL

I think it's been too easy to divert attention to global efforts in order to avoid the much harder challenge of how we need to engage our local "missions" efforts of reaching people outside the church and outside the faith.

We can continue sending financial resources to help local churches and ministry organizations in those countries, but **God has our churches in our communities to reach *our* mission fields.**

SHIFT 5: SHIFT FROM OVERSPENDING TO GENEROSITY

This is especially the case with staffing expenses. With declines in giving, this crisis is going to force churches to reduce expenditures for staff and facilities.

which, in the long run, should help churches free up resources to partner with local agencies and churches to address spiritual, physical and mental health needs in their communities – Collaborative Partnership.

SHIFT 6: SHIFT FROM COMPLEXITY TO SIMPLICITY

Complexity is one of the most obvious signs that a church has begun to experience decline on the church life cycle.

keeping people busy in church activities doesn't help people become more like Jesus.

We're already hearing stories from churches that realized this crisis is making them simplify their ministry strategy.

SHIFT 7: SHIFT FROM COUNTING ATTENDEES (NOW VIEWERS) TO ENGAGEMENT

We want to connect people with the body of Christ so that they have a chance to hear and respond to the Gospel.

That's a starting point for the conversations that I think churches need to be having beginning today. Not when the church reopens. If you wait until then, it'll probably be too late. It will be too easy to go back to doing church the way we've always done church, and we will have missed the opportunity of capitalizing on what we're learning through this interruption.

5 Practices to help in Finding our New Normal

Susan Beaumont (Congregational Consulting Group)

Resolute Leadership Style.

- Initial Crisis Response needed a
- Crisis moments Call for a strong, decisive action
- Striving during the first season of crisis. Act of working harder and longer to prove mastery, merit & worth.

Disorientation sets in...

- We are in a liminal season
- “We will resume all normal activity soon.” That reassurance is not helpful or truthful.
- we will resume many familiar things, but congregational life will not be the same. We are disoriented and confused. There is grief and loss.
- This season requires a different leadership stance. Our actions must originate from a new center—a less busy and more yielding, soulful place.
- The following five practices can help you lead more effectively as you discover the next, new normal with your congregation.

1. SURRENDER

yield

Just the
place we
need to be

We lean into the disorientation and
trust the leading of the Holy Spirit

Requires ADAPTIVE LEARNING

2. USE OF DISORIENTATION

Let the old
STATUS-QUO
Go

Embrace
Innovation

Rooted in something trying to end,
planting in a thing not yet defined,
something waiting to begin.

Need to let old things die, to
**experiment, to take risks and
learn.**

3. INVITE MEANING MAKING

Replace questions of:

- Where is God when people are suffering?
- Why are we here?
- Is God punishing the world?

People need help interpreting the present moment given their shared past.

Locate this moment in the history of your specific context.

Replace with:

- When have your people endured a moment reminiscent of this one?
- What higher values did they bring to that moment?
- How might those same values guide them now?

4. DEFINE ONE GOOD NEXT STEP

People need to know
that they are
pursuing something
that matters now

a sense of rootedness
to something enduring

Develop a shared
sense of what you are
trying to learn
together.

Help people remember
their passions and
connect those passions
to their gifts and
resources.

5. ATTEND TO THE YEARNING

we need to pay attention
to yearning

Yearning is the
language of the
human soul.

Discernment is the tool
we use to attend the
yearning.

Letting go of what once was, we let ourselves be led by God who is drawing us forward
and into our future.

**What is God calling us to do or
become next?**