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REDEFINING THE CHURCH

Why does this moment call for a reshaping of the church and how can we embrace the opportunities before us?

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An *interruption* is temporary change; a *disruption* brings long-lasting change to the status quo. This change brings with it a demand to seek new patterns, new ways and new perspectives. COVID-19 has been a disruption to the church, leading us to embrace new forms of church. Here is an outline of our conversation on some of the key elements affected by this disruption. You can also watch the webinar here.

What does 'redefining the church' mean?

- Getting back to the basics; remembering that it not what we do but who we are, the bride of Christ; it's about care of souls using the tools available to us: the Word and the Holy Spirit; it's about a personal relationship and prayer
- Revising our expectations and understanding of who we are called to be, and that is going to affect how we do things

What does pastoral are look like?

- Pastoral care typically means that pastors do all the work! Instead, pastors are called to facilitate a culture of mutual care. This means that pastors need to develop leaders and form smaller communities where care can happen naturally.
- It is about listening well and getting to know our people well and then, in turn, helping our people to extend pastoral care to others

What are the right things to spend our time doing?

- The main thing (and right thing) is making sure we spend real time with God so that we can give what we have received
- Develop and train leaders; those leaders will remain after our pastoral ministry ends
- Re-evaluate pastoral expectations and redefine how those expectations are met. (e.g., instead of spending 25 hours on the Sunday service, to spending 15 hours and utilize the other 10 in other channels like visitation, prayer, mentoring, etc.)

What does discipleship look like on-line?

- Discipleship is about modeling. It is about investing in someone else's life. Whom can you invest in who, in turn, will invest in others?
- This is a unique opportunity for us to go deeper and personalize experiences. What do they need to move closer to Jesus?
- Provide a combination of group learning, one-to-one relationships, small groups and resources for self-learning

'Believe, Belong, Become' has been a traditional way to shape the way we do church. When you believe, then you can belong in our church and together we become more like Jesus.

How would you articulate the shift we need to make here?

- Traditionally the understanding was that if you believed, you belonged. In today's post-Christendom reality, belonging has become vital, magnified by this pandemic. People of all ages first have to know there's a place for them at the table, a sense of belonging.
- We need deepen our sense of empathy beyond responding in a crisis to being there day to day, week to week.

NEXT STEPS

- Consider how God is speaking to you. Sit with it and ask God what to do with what you heard.
- Focus on community content
- Make a list of a few people to pour into

There have been a lot of change recently for the Church. But make no mistake—more change is coming. In this moment where the “normal” way of being Church has been disrupted, we have an opportunity to focus on what's essential. No longer can we rely solely on good content in our Sunday services. We must make sure our community life is developed so that people feel they belong and have access points to share life together. How we respond in this moment will redefine what Church looks like as we seek to be a better reflection of Christ.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

EVANGELISM TODAY
February 11, 10:00 am

What do we need to embrace now and what do we need to avoid when it comes to evangelism today?

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN A PANDEMIC
March 11, 10:00 am

How can you help your community engage with your church and its message?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Stay tuned for more topics!

CONTACT

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