

Re-opening the “Physical” Church

Things to Consider

1. What if your worship gathering is initially limited to 10 people?
2. What adjustments will you make to communion, baptisms, weddings, funerals.
3. Is a physical “pass the plate” offering a thing of the past?
4. Do ushers/greeters do their jobs differently, or at all?
5. Will masks and gloves be available at the entrances?
6. Will temperatures be checked for entry? What will be done if someone has an elevated temperature or is showing symptoms of potential infection?
7. What is the church’s responsibility for attendees safety? What is the liability?
8. Will hymnals be used?
9. Should you add and/or shorten worship services to allow for social distancing?
10. Are you going to continue offering onsite Sunday School and Bible Study?
11. Will you delay continuing the church’s coffee hour?
12. Will you begin or continue offering online worship, even when churches are permitted to hold public worship? Live stream or recorded?
13. How will we communicate our plans to the congregation? How will you, can you, assure safety without promises?
14. Are you canceling or delaying summer camps and VBS?
15. Will you reopen the doors of your church with a “worship only” strategy?
16. Are you going to continue hosting meetings, choir practice, special events, rentals, 12 step programs?
17. What is your plan when volunteers step down?
18. What is your strategy to clean and sanitize your church and facilities daily/weekly?
19. Do you have a plan for reducing expenses if your church’s offerings and other income is reduced?
20. How will you deal with the short and long term rise of COVID-19 related issues (ie. Physical health, financial, mental health)?

This list of questions is not exhaustive. It’s representative of many things we should be thinking about right now. What would you add to this list?

John J. Scibilia
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