

Re-Opening the Church Zoom Meetings

April 27 @ 3pm, 22 met on Zoom: Mike Kahn, Mondonico Williams, Lielson Penido, Robert Beckman, Tim Encinosa, Bob Block, Chris Conti, Stacey Bowen, Shannon Eads, Bill Scaife, Joseph Hufstetler, Lennox Zamore, Alec Hall, Bill Johnson, Dan Reid, Tony Parker, Tom Eiche, David Durham, Zeb McKinnon, Len Harper, Eloy Rodriguez, Manuel Diaz

April 27 @ 7pm, 8 met on Zoom: Mike Kahn, Robert Beckman, Rob Allison, Fred Wright, Clarence Nathan, Robby Cramer, JJ Johnson, Donald Grantham

Our Current, Shared Reality: News, info, rules, and rumors are enough to overwhelm and confuse anybody. As leaders in the community we must model a mature understanding that government officials and frontline workers are making difficult decisions in an unknown world. At TBBA.org website there is a Covid-19 section which may help. The U.S. Surgeon General stated on April 23 that we are currently in Phase Zero. Once we have 14 days of decline in our region we may enter Phase One. After another 14 days of decline in our region then we may enter Phase Two. After another 14 days of decline in our region we may move to Phase 3. We may or may not have a recurring outbreak and start all over again at any time over the next few months. God bless you as you make informed and balanced decisions in what God is asking your church family to do.

CLEANING

Freddy Robinson-does cleaning, sanitizing. Call (813) 943-9419
Lennox knows him and uses him.

Legality -- are we liable to lawsuits? if so, put a protocol in place. Bear in mind many lawsuits hinge on the question, "did we do all we reasonably could to prevent this?" Hiring a professional cleaner may help. Using a professional cleaning checklist may help.

Ameraproducts.com for sanitizer. They sell a \$53 starter kit. (https://www.ameraproducts.com/automatic-foam-hand-sanitizer-SF305_F7500.htm)

TBBA.org website, in the Covid-19 section, we share Cleaning lessons from CDC and from sister churches with strict VPK guidelines.

You can create your own cleaning solutions better and stronger than store-bought. Good because they are more effective and good because stores may run out.

SMALL GROUPS/Sunday School Rooms/ KIDS

Consider keeping Kids in service with Families. Parents may be nervous to release kids into kids' spaces. Those considering having Kids groups in Kids rooms were: measuring square foot for each room, estimating the max capacity, creating a system to rsvp. One primary ministry philosophy: Parents make the decision. We control the parameters within the Kids zone, but Parents may or may not partake of the Kids zone or they may wait longer before sending Kids.

Consider that not all your Kids Workers will be comfortable being around Kids. Grandma was always the most faithful nursery worker...but not right now.

Some plan to continue using Zoom as a tool for small groups. Some voiced the difficulty of communicating heart-to-heart via Zoom only. Some plan to continue with a Hybrid style of meeting: Getting together in person when possible, yet keep the Zoom/Facebook running for those who can't/won't make it in person. If Zoom is clunky, maybe just a Facebook Live so those not present can look in.

ONLINE

All agreed God has been faithful to use this time to stretch us to reach out online like never before. General agreement is that it would be a shame to entirely shrink back from online presence "because now we don't have to."

Consider that maintaining online service will help sick, distant, elderly who remain nervous about being around people or for many reasons are unable to join you physically. You may still remain as the only church family they can or will participate with. Consider online as a way to continue to reach many. Consider investing into equipment to improve (cameras, Video Volunteers, etc.)

Some found it unfortunate that Wednesday night Zooms and Prayer Time Zooms often feel cold, sterile, and non-interactive. Some Facebook Live streamers enjoyed a little more interaction. Still not as interactive as being together. Yet some interact on Wednesday night Facebook Live for the first time ever (those normally teaching in Awana, normally teaching Youth, normally not there because they live far away). Stay legal, get the CCLI copyright license for using songs. Amazing Grace is now in Public Domain, but many other writers are still alive and deserve credit for their work. Note that Facebook might kick a song offline.

SPACING in Worship

Protocols need to be sent to members before reopening.

Protocols need to remind them of the environment we seek, such as:

Consider masks (at the minimum provide an environment where mask-wearing is welcomed and accepted); stay home if you have ANY sickness; take temps; mark off at least six feet for walkways and seating (6 ft. is the least, consider doing more than the least, when people sing or cough they project more than 6 feet!)

Move chairs so that one family sits in a tight cluster, with several feet of empty space to the neighboring clusters. Chairs can be moved...Pews can be taped off or roped off. Ask that families sit with the household they Stay-at-Home with. Teens sit with parents from their house, not with other teens cross-contaminating household to household.

If bumping into each other's noses is going to be a problem on a tight aisle then mark off One Way traffic flow. "This is an Enter Door", "follow the arrows", "This is an Exit Door". If you Exit the same door I enter then we have most certainly come close to kissing each other.

Prop doors or Greeters open doors. Nobody should have to touch a doorknob.

Ushers work like at a wedding, “How many in your party? Great, please follow me. How about over here, we have these 5 seats?” At the end of the service Ushers dismiss by rows, giving people time to slowly and safely exit without tripping into one another. Perhaps the best Exit door is to flow past the front aisle, not backtrack through the crowd.

Communion can be safe and distant. Use individually sealed crackers and cups. The hands of others do not need to go near the cracker or cup.

Greeting Time, all agreed, must look very different for a long time. Consider not doing it, or guide them how they can take a moment to “look to your neighbors, smile, nod your head, and tell them how encouraged you are to see them.”

You may need to add services to provide plenty of spacing.

You may need to think of abbreviated services. Abbreviated because you added more services, abbreviated because you acknowledge Kids are sitting with parents (some of these parents have been deputized as Homeschool teachers for several weeks!), abbreviated because you have provided further teaching time online.

Some will use rsvp for Sunday School classes and Kids classes as a way to funnel in a small enough crowd in the Worship.

You may want to divide all A-M families go to 9:30 service; all N-Z families go to 11am service.

DRIVE BY INTERACTIONS

Want a good excuse to provide a pastoral touch, see folks in the car, hand out devotional books, hand out toilet paper, hand out a hot BBQ sandwich, hand out sealed communion cups? Have folks drive by your breezeway. Tell them to “rsvp” by texting, and then we’ll have it ready for you, the crew will be outside at the curb just 30 minutes, Wednesday, 5pm to 5:30pm” Maybe seeing a glimpse will encourage them, even if they are still too scared to get out of the car and enter a building and be exposed to others.