

# HOW TO *Rethink* SUCCESS AND SIGNIFICANCE IN MINISTRY

**OBJECTIVE:** To "Rethink" ministry while dealing with a "New Reality"

## How to Rethink It?

1. What are you measuring or rethinking?
2. Rethink Mission – What are you doing?
3. Rethink Vision – What is it you see your church doing?

## DEFINITION OF RETHINKING:

*"It is the radical redesign of church processes from dramatic improvement in the fulfillment of the church's purpose and mission." p. 13 (Rethinking the Church by James Emery White)*

## Two Important Words:

1. **PROCESSES** – "A complete end-to-end set of activities that together fulfill the purposes and mission of the church." p. 13  
Or  
Processes = Systems

## The Eight Systems of the Church

### 1. THE EVANGELISM SYSTEM

*"How we attract people to our church"*

### 2. THE WORSHIP SYSTEM

*"How we plan, implement, and evaluate the weekend service(s) at our church"*

### 3. THE ASSIMILATION SYSTEM

*"How we move people from first-time guests to members at our church"*

### 4. THE SMALL GROUPS SYSTEM

*"How we fill and reproduce small groups at our church"*

### 5. THE MINISTRY SYSTEM

*"How we mobilize people for significant ministry at our church"*

### 6. THE STEWARDSHIP SYSTEM

*"How we develop extravagant givers at our church."*

### 7. THE LEADERSHIP SYSTEM

*"How we develop leaders at all levels at our church"*

### 8. THE STRATEGY SYSTEM

*"How we constantly evaluate and improve our church"*

## 2. **IMPROVEMENT** – Is to make some progress and advances, i.e., in ministry

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Do you know your church's systems or processes?

Where does dramatic improvement need to be made?

### **NEW REALITY**

Let's face it - the church has and is in a new reality. COVID-19 has forced us into a new way of thinking about church ministry. In Post-COVID, the church will operate in a New Reality. Things the way we did them Pre-COVID will not return to normal.

Everything won't change and some things will remain the same

A. 25-30% Post-Coronavirus will return to normal.

- Singing
- Dispensing communion
- Children's church
- Altar calls

B. 25-30 % of what we do will return to some semblance of normal, but with major or minor adjustments.

- Sanitizing, cleaning and disinfecting will be the norm
- Dinners held at the church probably will not be the same

C. 25-30% of what we do Post-Coronavirus will never return to normal, will completely develop new ways, or the new things we have done during the virus we will continue.

- Online church

### **5 KEY CONCEPTS TO RETHINK**

**Concept 1: Personal Growth** – a personal growth mindset or open mind, where you are growing and actively pursuing new ideas.

Fixed Mindset vs. Growth Mindset



FM – leaders believe there is nothing new to learn or add to their knowledge and will not try to learn

GM – leaders believes they can grow and actively pursue new ideas.

**Concept 2: Churches will not abandon Online Church** – Fight it, deny it, ignore it, but Online church is here to stay. The church can reach more people and reach people faster until Jesus returns through Online Church. Online church=Media/Video Ministry. It is now a vital ministry that needs vision and budgeting.

1. Weekly Production Meetings with the Media Team to review previous Sunday and what needs to be done for the next Sunday and future.
2. Video Training – Your media teams need training in making videos and how to use the software.
3. Sound Ministry – Your sound team will need training on how to improve the live streaming sound and the in-house sound.

Your church will be effective in the near and distant future by offering a slate of services that will include:

1. Sunday In-person on the Church Campus, i.e., 10:45 (Good time to rethink the times of your services)
2. Online Services – Different times for the services to be aired on the website.

**QUESTION:** Are you fully embracing online church with a growth mindset?

### **Concept 3: Embrace and Develop Small Group Ministry**

Small Groups are places of community where people can belong.

A Small Group is Community: "A Small group is a face-to-face gathering of three to twelve people on a regular time schedule during which a sense of accountability to each other and Jesus Christ is present." p. 37, *Creating Community*

#### **Reasons Why Churches Need Small Groups**

##### **1. To Encourage Spiritual Growth – Acts 2:42**

- Goal is to make disciples that are connecting people with people.

##### **2. To Nourish Relational Growth – Hebrews 10:24**

- Goal is to encourage other believers to grow spiritually and spend time with one another

### 3. To Stimulate Service – I Peter 4:10

- Goal is to allow space and opportunity for someone to use their gift of hospitality, someone else their gift of administration, and someone else their gifts of helps. These persons work together to serve others as well as each other.

#### Types of Small Groups:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Discipleships/Bible Study Groups – Learning and applying the Bible, with homework assignments to be discussed each week
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Prayer Groups - Teams get together to pray for specific areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Fellowship Groups – Social interaction and fellowship for people of various age groups, interest level, and emotional support to share with one another
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Task/Mission Groups – Groups help people or serve people. These groups share a common goal or interest in ministering to people.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** What type of Small Groups would you implement first in your church?

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#### Concept 4: Leadership Training is More Important Now than Ever

The pastor should incorporate a leadership team training every month to discuss leadership skills, vision, and mission.

Important to RETHINK:

1. Mission: What is a Mission?
  - a. Mission answers the question: What do we do?
  - b. Mission statement is a modern and customized restatement of how your church is going to fulfill the Great Commission.
  - c. The mission is something of which the church must consistently remain focused.
  - d. The mission statement must be short, specific, and meaningful.

The task of leaders is to define the Mission



Checklist for the mission statement

- Is the mission clear?
  - Does the mission move the people?
  - Does the mission speak to the community?
2. Vision: A clear, clarifying picture of the future of the ministry, as you believe it can be and must be.
- a. Vision Statement is where are we going?
  - b. The vision creates excitement
  - c. The vision promotes excellence
  - d. The vision creates a journey ahead

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Has your church recently rethought the Mission and Vision?

**Concept 5: The Church Should be a Neighborhood Church**

How is the church structured to conduct ongoing missional outreach activities?

**COMMUNITY POTENTIAL**

1. What is your community's greatest challenge?
2. What problem is no one addressing in your community?
3. What part of your community's life is the furthest from God's original design?
4. What is your community known for?
5. What is the historical story of your community?
6. If one big change could take place in your community that would change it the most, what would it be?

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Does your church have a Missions Team?

**Concept 6: Get Back on the Youth Band Wagon**

Think through ways to minister to youth and families – ministering to families who have been together for a year

1. Calls with your parents
2. Calls with your youth from the pastor
3. Find out their biggest concerns and issues
4. Find ways to address those issues

**Rethink:** Summer Program for Youth

1. Family fellowship, games, activities with competition
2. Outside movie night, early spring
3. School Year-End Celebration – for teachers and youth
4. Plan, Plan, and Plan a Summer Youth Academic Program – assess youth shortfalls and give academic tutor and support to prepare them for the next school year

**Concept 7: Member Tracing**

Where are your members? Have all the members of the church been accounted for? Have all members received some type of personal touch?

**Contacting a Member**

