Resources for Faith Leaders in the Wake of COVID-19

Dear Faith Leaders and Friends,

I hope you, your families, and your congregations are doing well in these complex times. Recent CDC guidance about restricting gatherings of 10+ people, in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, has put an enormous strain on all of our rhythms of life.

For pastors and church leaders who regularly lead gatherings of 10+, this news presents challenges to the way many operate and gather together for worship. We wanted to pass along some information below in case some of it is helpful for you.

I. Live Streaming for Services and Meetings

You may already have live-streaming set up. If you don't, you can use services like <u>Facebook Live</u>, <u>YouTube</u> <u>Live</u>, <u>Google Meet</u>, and <u>Zoom</u> for free or relatively low cost.

Here is an article that walks through some of these services. A Beginner's Guide to Church Live Streaming

Google is making the professional version of <u>Google Hangouts Meet</u> available for <u>FREE</u>. Here are <u>instructions</u> for setting up Google video streaming.

II. Virtual Giving

We also know live streaming church services without providing ways for people to give online will affect the operations and services of a congregation.

Here's a good article on the five best online giving platforms.

PayPal, Venmo, or CashApp might be easiest at first.

Planning Center, **<u>Tithe.ly</u>**, **<u>EasyTithe</u>**, **<u>RebelGive</u>** and <u>GiveLify</u> position themselves as longer-term solutions.

III. Caring Communication

We also know as leaders you have to communicate clearly and effectively to allay fears and misinformation. We found these websites, articles, and resources helpful as we seek to understand and adjust to this virus.

<u>https://coronavirusandthechurch.com</u> - contains information from the <u>CDC</u> and pastors for <u>best practices</u> for leading a congregation in the midst of COVID-19.

Washington Post: Why Outbreaks like coronavirus spread exponentially and how to "flatten the curve" - a helpful article explaining the science behind the need for social distancing.

Praxis Labs: Love in the Time of Coronavirus

Sojourners: American Individualism vs. Loving Your Neighbor

New York Times: The Christian Response to the Coronavirus: Stay Home

Chanequa Walker-Barnes' Youtube Presentation "Pastoring in a Pandemic"

Joshua DuBois - <u>www.valuespartnerships.com</u>

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