

TEN COVID COMMANDMENTS

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR REOPENING CHURCHES

By Dr. Larry Anderson and the BRN Healthy Churches Team

A Resource Guide from the Baptist Resource Network

#1: Thou Shall Not Touch

We know we can't hug and shake hands anymore, but how do we now:

- Serve Communion?
- Perform baptism?
- Collect offering?

Suggested Resources:

RE-ENTRY SURVEY BY LIFEWAY RESEARCH:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/covid-19-re-entry-survey>

20 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK:

<https://kenbraddy.com/2020/04/18/20-questions-your-church-should-answer-before-people-return>

GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON CHURCH GATHERINGS IN PENNSYLVANIA:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/guidance-for-in-person-church-gatherings-in-pennsylvania>

COMMUNION HELPS:

9MARKS ARTICLE: <https://www.9marks.org/article/how-can-we-celebrate-communion-when-our-churches-start-gathering-again>

PREFILLED COMMUNION CUPS/WAFERS:

-- AMAZON: <https://www.amazon.com/Fellowship-Prefilled-communion-wafer-100-BROADMAN/dp/B015X6ETYS>

-- CONCORDIA SUPPLY: <https://www.concordiasupply.com/Church-Supplies/Communion-Supplies/Pre-Filled-Communion-Cups>

-- LIVING GRACE CATALOG: <https://www.livinggracecatalog.com/category/communion-supplies>

BAPTISM HELPS:

Family members perform baptism?

Baptize in bathtubs, video record for church?

#2: Thou Shall Not Huddle

We know we have to practice social distancing, but how do we now:

- Have café time?
- Greet members and visitors?
- Have classes?
- Have the choir sing?

Suggested Resources:

RE-ENTRY SURVEY BY LIFEWAY RESEARCH:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/covid-19-re-entry-survey>

GOSPEL COALITION:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/when-will-church-buildings-reopen>

RECOMMENDED PREVENTATIVE PRACTICES AND FAQs FOR FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY LEADERS:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/covid-19-recommended-preventative-practices-and-faqs-for-faith-based-and-community-leaders>

“BEFORE YOU GATHER (BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL):

<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/risk-management-articles/disasters-emergencies-and-health/general-health-and-injury-prevention/coronavirus/before-we-gather>

#3: Thou Shall Be My Witnesses

in Jerusalem in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth ... but how do we now:

- Continue the online ministry to those who cannot attend in person?
- Increase bandwidth in your building to support a streaming service?
- Use the online Zoom and webinars for small group and other discipleship classes?

Suggested Resources:

IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING WITH ONLINE VIEWERS:

<https://www.brnunited.org/news/questions-to-ask-your-online-viewers>

NEED BETTER CAMERAS FOR CONTINUED LIVESTREAMING?

<https://easychurchtech.com/best-camera-for-live-streaming-church>

BALLAST MEDIA: WHAT CAMERA YOU SHOULD USE FOR LIVE STREAMING:

<https://youtu.be/X0Jexw8PcZU>

MEVO CAMERA: <https://mevo.com>

A PASTORS' GUIDE TO INSTAGRAM LIVE:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/a-pastors-guide-to-instagram-live>

LEARN HOW TO USE ZOOM:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/learn-how-to-use-zoom-in-5-mins-for-online-small-groups>

FAITH ON FACEBOOK TOOLKIT:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/faith-on-facebook-toolkit>

#4: Thou Shall Dress Appropriately

But what does that mean now?

- Are we asking members to wear gloves and mask to worship?
- Are we prepared to supply those who attend with the proper PPE to enjoy service?

Suggested Resources:

BULK PPE/HAND SANITIZERS, ETC.:

-- OUTREACH: <https://outreach.com/face-masks-sanitizer-stations>

-- AMAZON: <https://amazon.com>, masks

-- EFAVORMART: <https://www.efavormart.com/products/pack-of-50-3-ply-disposable-face-mask-with-ear-loop>

FACE MASK SEWING PATTERN:

<https://www.brnunited.org/resources/need-face-masks>

CDC PRINTABLE GUIDELINES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>

#5: Thou Shall Not Put The Lord Your God to the Test

But how do we now:

- Ask seniors and those with immune deficiency to stay home, at least initially, for their safety?
- Ask those who are most at risk in their daily lives to the virus to stay home for others' safety?
- Keep all gatherings, besides worship, as out-of-church digital gatherings?

Suggested Resources:

GRANDPAD PURPOSE-BUILT TABLET FOR PEOPLE 75 YEARS AND OLDER:

<https://www.grandpad.net>

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR OLDER ADULTS:

<https://www.cdc.gov/aging/covid19-guidance.html>

9MARKS, HOW CAN WE CARE FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS DURING COVID-19?

<https://www.9marks.org/article/a-list-of-practical-ways-to-care-for-church-members>

#6: Thou Shall Increase Thy Territory

But how do you do that with social distancing?

- Do we start additional services to continue social distancing?
- Do we remove chairs or skip pews to continue social distancing?
- Do we space chairs out and only allow same households to sit together?
- Do we place marks throughout the sanctuary to relegate spacing in the building?

Suggested Resources:

REOPENING CHURCH: LEADING AFTER COVID-19:

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/reopening-church>

RELAUNCHING THE CHURCH (ED STETZER):

https://player.vimeo.com/video/413846286?app_id=122963

CDC PRINTABLE GUIDELINES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>

#7: Thou Shall Bring All the Tithes into the Storehouse

But do we have to do that in person?

- Can we use digital giving through websites, tithe.ly or other non-money transferring processes?
- For non-digital givers, can we suggest checks as the first option, which touch less hands, then cash?
- Can we prepare for a leaner budget based on unemployment and the slow return of members?

Suggested Resources:

DIGITAL OFFERING RESOURCES:

-- TITHE.LY: <https://get.tithe.ly>

-- PUSHPAY: <https://pushpay.com>

-- SNOWBALL: <https://snowballfundraising.com>

-- CLOVER: www.clovergive.com

COVID-19 PUTS 'TRUE VALUE OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ON FULL DISPLAY':

<https://www.brnunited.org/news/covid-19-puts-true-value-of-the-cooperative-program-on-full-display>

#8: Thou Shall Not Hinder the Little Children from Coming to the Lord

But how do you do children's ministry in this new environment?

- Can you monitor a child's social distancing and safety and is it wise to have in-person classes?
- Should you keep children's classes online since children typically are the first to ignore guidelines?
- Are you prepared to not pass out items to children, or through children, and ask them to bring their own writing materials and workbooks, or only do classes with verbal interactions?

Suggested Resources:

VIRTUAL VBS OPTIONS:

<https://www.brnunited.org/news/lifeway-offers-vbs-options-for-churches-and-families-during-pandemic>

OTHER VIRTUAL CONTENT:

<https://kidsministry.lifeway.com/2013/05/10/great-childrens-ministry-training-content-online-for-your-church>

20 WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN PROCESS THE PANDEMIC:

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2020/may/20-ways-to-help-your-children-process-pandemic.html>

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN TIME OF CRISIS (PODCAST):

<https://pod.co/stetzer-leadership-podcast/episode-29-childrens-ministry-in-time-of-crisis>

#9: Thou Shall Cleanse Thyself of all Uncleanliness

*What will we do to ensure
safe, sanitary practices?*

- Will we establish sanitation stations throughout the church?
- Will we establish “no-touch” options, including faucets and towel dispensers, in restrooms?
- Will we establish motion-detecting lights and doors, where possible?
- Will we keep doors open, where possible?
- Will we equip and empower a disinfecting team and routine to fully sanitize the building between services?

Suggested Resources:

TOUCHLESS AUTOMATIC HAND SANITIZING STATIONS:

<https://outreach.com/face-masks-sanitizer-stations>

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING YOUR CHURCH BUILDING:

<https://gabaptist.org/reopening-your-church-building>

#10: Thou House Must Be a House of Prayer

- We can do all we can but we must totally surrender our will to the Lord.
- Only open the building when you have discerned God's voice (and wisdom) for safe return.

Suggested Resources:

GREAT FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNICATING PHASES OF RE-ENTRY:

<https://www.firstcolleyville.com/covid-19>

LEADING YOUR CHURCH IN A CRISIS (CAREY NIEUWHOF):

<https://careynieuwhof.com/crisis-leadership-christian-leadership-and-the-corona-virus-epidemic>

ADF CHURCH ALLIANCE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSISTANCE:

-- MEMBERSHIP: adfchurchalliance.org/brn

BRN250 – pay only \$250 for a full year of membership

-- COVID-19 Resources: <https://adflegal.org/covid19>

-- Request Legal Help: <https://adflegal.org/request-legal-help>

