

TEN POST-COVID COMMANDMENTS

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR
HOSTING POST-PANDEMIC CHURCH

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A Resource Guide from the Baptist Resource Network

#1: Thou Shall Join

Don't wait for Covid to be over or to get back into the building to invite people to become a part of the fellowship. By doing so you will make the building synonymous with the brick-and-mortar church vs. the community of believers.

- You will need to offer this process virtually as well as in the building for the different audiences.
- You can use the new member curriculum in a one-on-one format to instantly create a discipleship environment via in person or FaceTime, which creates flexibility.

#2: Thou Shall Be My Witnesses

We must be ‘people of Issachar’ who understand the times.

- **PRAYERFULLY ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY:** Through “Bless Every Home” you can learn who your neighbors are and pray for them by name, in preparation for your divine appointments.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA TESTIMONIES:** Let members share personal stories that’s 2 minutes or less, telling how they came to know the Lord and the difference He has made in their lives. Invite those interested in hearing more to contact them. (This eliminates the in-person fear). However, as Christians, remember that everything we post either leads someone towards Christ, or away from Him.

- **INVITING SOMEONE TO CHURCH IS AS EASY AS LIKING AND SHARING AS POST.** (Encourage the body to share the link for worship service on their social media platforms.) If ever there was an opportunity to peek into an informal engaging learning environment that time is now. Let people know they don't have to even turn their cameras on if they're not comfortable doing so and bring them along at a pace at which they are comfortable.

- **KNOW AND RESPOND:** Every community has needs. For some, it may be as simple as masks and hand sanitizer. For others, the needs are more tangible like food and shelter. Someone else may need grief counseling and compassion. Jesus gained popularity because of His proclamation *and* demonstration of the Gospel, and we must do the same.

#3: Thou Shall Meet

Do not forsake the assembling together as some are in the habit of doing.

- Virtual affinity groups are here to stay. Concerns about travel, weather, opening and closing the building can all be a thing of the past with online gatherings.
- Sunday school, small groups, prayer meetings, children's church, men's and women's ministry can all take place in the digital world.

- **Include a weekly prayer conference call – two separate times during the day.**

#4: Thou Shall Adapt

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

- **MULTIPLE SERVICES WILL NOW ACCOMMODATE LESS PEOPLE VS. MORE:** I know we have been in love with filling every seat but in the near future, we must be prepared to accommodate social distancing guidelines and switch up to multiple services to house less people in each service.

- **LONG SERVICES ARE DEAD:**
The succinct delivery system has been introduced and appreciated by most audiences. Do not attempt to go back to 2-hour services when you demonstrated that you could accomplish everything necessary in one hour.

#5: Thou Shall See the Crowd

*When he saw the crowds,
He had compassion on
them, because they were
harassed and helpless, like
sheep without a shepherd.*

- **LOVE THE CROWD AND THE COMMITTED:** With Covid concerns and digital platforms, the fully committed may be few. However, we must continue to see the crowd as pre-disciples and not mentally or verbally reject them because we feel rejected by them. Loving the seemingly unlovable was always the mission.

- **INTENTIONALLY ENGAGE THE ONLINE CONGREGATION:** The preacher can ask the audience to type “Amen” at appropriate times throughout the message. Employ “online monitors” to intentionally engage during the sermons to make responding seem normal, much like individuals responding in the building.

#6: Thou Shall Equip the Saints

For the work of the ministry.

- **OUT OF STATE MEMBERSHIP:**
Recognize that now you have a church beyond the walls. Ask yourself how you should pastor and disciple someone who will never walk into your building.
- **DIGITAL DIRECTOR OR PASTOR:**
The digital platform of ministry is not an option Post-Covid; it is a must. Future church success may depend on the church's capacity to be a hybrid experience.

#7: Thou Shall Do it as unto the Lord

Showcase Your Best:

- Pre-record a message for the online audience with the speaker looking and speaking directly to the camera. (Or)
- Re-edit in-person message to aesthetically improve the broadcast.

#8: Thou Shall Listen to Advice, Accept Instruction

*That you may gain wisdom
in the future.*

Counseling can be done via Zoom as many are hurting and/or seeking wisdom. This has become not only convenient but acceptable and preferred in many circles.

#9: Thou Shall Baptize

*In the name of the Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit.*

- Vaccinations and masks can make baptisms available and safe again.

#10: Thou Shall Bring all the Tithes into the Storehouse

- The more platforms you have to give, the more convenient it will be to give.
- Do not be ashamed to offer multiple options, as this shows sensitivity—not greed—to those who desire to bless the ministry.



