

“Doing Ministry in a Post-Pandemic World”

Presented by Dr. D’Ann V. Johnson

For the Network of Local Churches Leadership Summit

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I. Ministry Return

1. Avoid the fallacy of a “new normal”
 - Ps. 85:8 NKJV – *I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly.*
 - Ps. 85:8 AMP – *I will listen [with expectancy] to what God the Lord will say, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints (those who are in right standing with Him) – but let them not turn again to [self-confident] folly.*
 - Ps. 85:8 NCV – *I will listen to God the Lord. He has ordered peace for those who worship him. Don’t let them go back to foolishness.*
2. From the message, *Processing the Pandemic*, by Pastor Billy R. Johnson
 - A. *The Church must fight sameness* – resist the urge to go back to the pre-pandemic experience.
 - B. *The Church must follow the current instruction* – spend time in prayer to discern what God is saying.
 - C. *The Church must find new paths* – discover new ministries and ministry forms for the future.
3. *“Church leaders are going to revert to doing things the ways they’ve always known them, whereas the population in general and millennials are going to find that this disruption altered their habits and perspectives on the role and relevance of the church. The gap between the church and society is only going to be larger.”* – George Barna
4. **Exercise:** The Challenge of Change
5. *Without God’s direction, we will simply replace one method of busyness for another—one source of distraction for another.*

II. Ministry Reimagined

1. Reimagined Congregations
 - A. Digital Ministry – Option or Necessity?
 - B. Membership Composition – Digital, Transitioning, and Dual
2. Reimagined Gatherings
 - A. An estimated 20-30% of members will not return to the sanctuary
 - B. There will be more members outside than inside
 - C. *“The past year and a half didn’t just change how Christian met; it changed their hearts and minds toward the Church.”* – George Barna
3. Reimagined Worship Experiences
 - A. Smaller gatherings
 - B. Shorter services
 - C. Strategic, yet simple systems

4. Reimagined Pastoral Care
 - A. Reaching and caring for members
 - B. Reaching and caring for the community
 - C. Handling trauma recovery
 - D. *Even when we are removed from the trauma, but we're still responding to the stress.*
 - E. *Isa. 50:4 – The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.*
 - F. Congregational Surveys – Ex., Pandemic Impact Survey
 - G. Community Assessments – *Know Your Community Report*, ChurchAnswers.com

5. Reimagined Evangelism and Discipleship
 - A. Responses to Altar Calls
 - B. New Member Orientation
 - C. Connection to Small/Life Groups

6. Reimagined Ministries & Staffing
 - A. Evaluation – *During the pandemic, what did we **stop** doing, what did we **start** doing, and what do we need to **begin** doing?*
 - B. Elimination – *If we stopped something and it did not have a negative impact on the ministry, we **do not need to resume** doing it?*
 - C. Redeployment – *Where can we **reallocate** the human and financial resources from what has been eliminated?*

7. Reimagined Financial Engagement & Viability
 - A. Increased digital giving
 - B. Best use for increased finances due to decreased activity
 - C. Facility sharing
 - D. Strategic Planning – “What If?”

8. Reimagined Organization
 - A. Church Fostering – *A healthier church/ministry brings the people and assets of a struggling church/ministry into its family.*
 - B. Church Adoption – *A healthier church/ministry provides assistance and resources to a struggling church/ministry for a defined period.*

III. Ministry Relunched

1. From Social Media to Social Ministry
 - A. *“A social media plan focuses on getting people to the building for a couple of hours every weekend, whereas a social ministry strategy focuses on how to help them grow in their faith through social technology after they leave. You need both, and if you focus only on a social media plan, you will build an audience while stopping short of building disciples.” – Nona Jones, *From Social Media to Social Ministry**
 - B. The Great Commission – *Where we go is determined by where they are, and where they are is on social media.*

2. Turning Digital Marketing into Digital Ministry
 - A. Marketing says, "This is what we have to offer. Come get it."
 - B. Ministry says, "This is what we have to offer. I will bring it."
 - C. Turning from an advertising mentality to interactive conversations and content that connects online users, creates opportunities for conversation, leads to conversion, and teaches commitment.

Medium	Potential Uses
Facebook (Pages & Groups)	Connection;
Twitter	Engagement: Surveys & Questions
Instagram	Communication; Celebrations
YouTube	Ministry Messages
Website	Information; Connection
Email	Communication
Text	Communication
Voice Messages	Communication
Zoom	Communication; Ministry; Training

3. Relaunching Essentials (Acts 2:42)

Acts 2:40-42 NKJV - *And with many other words he testified and **exhorted** them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.*

 - **Exhorted** – Preaching
 - **Baptized** - Ordinance
 - **Doctrine** – Teaching/Discipling
 - **Fellowship** - Community
 - **Breaking of Bread** – Sacraments
 - Prayers** - Worship

IV. Ministry Resources

- *From Social Media to Social Ministry*, Nona Jones
- *The Post Quarantine Church*, Thom S. Rainer
- *Trends in the Black Church*, Barna.com
- *Know Your Community Assessment*, ChurchAnswers.com (\$175)
<https://churchanswers.com/solutions/tools/kyc/know-your-community/>
- Sample registration and FAQs for returning to worship: <https://newcov.org/return-to-church/>
- Sample Letter for Church Return (Includes vaccination information and survey request)
- Church Return Survey Results (Created in Constant Contact - <https://www.constantcontact.com/>)
- Church Return Survey Questions (Text Only)