

The Next Season at North Park

Questions for our consideration I want to preface this list by underscoring the values that drive these questions. This is not about playing things safe, or reacting to fear. The intention behind these questions is to love our neighbors and one another to the very best of our ability. We want to be agile in our response, but not reactive. We also need to recognize this is perhaps the biggest shake up and shift the American Church has faced our lifetime. Somethings will not go back to “normal” and that is a good thing in some cases; in other’s we may feel grief in something lost. My hope is that in the coming weeks we can take a fresh look at how we do things, with an eye towards the new opportunities in front of us to show Jesus’ love through generosity, service and our relationships.

This list is intended as a launching point. Some questions may seem unnecessary to you, while you will think of others that are missing. This is provided as an open and working document.

Sunday Mornings:

I want to begin with what perhaps seems most obvious. How do we need to change our practice in how we gather for worship on Sunday mornings? Our governor has stated her intention that things will open back up in phases. It is probable we will have initial limits of no more than 50 people at a gathering. It is almost certain that we will be asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and beyond what is asked/mandated we will likely also be faced with people overcoming a psychological barrier in reconnecting.

I have tried to imagine the entire experience from pulling into our parking lot to leaving, thinking through what best practices might look like in adherence to what will be asked of us.

Greeting

- Where will greeters be placed?
- Will we open the door for everyone or keep it open?
- We may be asked to provide sanitizer stations and/or masks. How do we prepare for this?
- What if we are asked/ required to have a temperature check for attendees?
- How do we socially distance in our Hallways?
- What, if any signage is needed?
- Do we ask people to go directly into the Sanctuary? Do we also have them leave in a specific manner?
- Do we hand out bulletins?

Library

- Do we provide treats?
- Should we set up the Library as an alternative gathering spot for those nervous about proximity, or as an overflow with A/V?

Sanctuary

- Do we rope off rows and space seating?
- Do our A/V volunteers need any protection?
- What does our team on stage look like?

Worship Elements

- Is singing going to be a new challenge given the amount of breath going into the air?
- How will we practice communion?
- Do we shift how we take offering?

- How do we need to shift our default liturgy (or order of service)?

Children

- Do we have children's church?
- What processes need adjustment?
- What opportunities are emerging in helping parents disciple their children and how do we respond them?

Other Weekly Gatherings We also need to think through any changes we might need to make in regards to weekly gatherings beyond our Sunday worship service. Similar to Sunday mornings, we also need to think through social distancing requirements, possible sanitizer and mask requirements, and limits to number of people gathered.

Community Groups including the Women's Study

- Meet outside?
- Eating together?
- Continued zoom option?
- Do leaders have new resource needs?

Youth Group

- Timeline of restarting in person gatherings
- What changes need to happen (still play active games, Food, Proximity)?
- What new opportunities are presenting themselves in both discipling students and engaging parents and how do we respond?

Outside Groups Using Building

How do we move forward with:

- Reformation Fellowship
- AA
- Other users

Neighborhood Outreach We do not want to assume what we have done will return to normal, what needs changing? (New needs and emerging opportunities are addressed in next section.)

Block Party We will likely reschedule this for 2021, however it is possible by august we can gather. Do we want to go ahead and cancel for 2020 or hold a date for a possible neighborhood celebration this year?

Feed Hope/Generosity Feeds

- Food scarcity is growing drastically. Is there a better way for us to engage our community going forward?
- Do we partner with the Willakenzie Community Church pantry?

What opportunities and needs have presented themselves via COVID19?

Continuation of online presence

- We have had some people connect who normally cannot. We may likely also have some who are slower to want to gather in a group. Do we continue a Zoom alternative or provide some sort of live feed or recorded service?

Emerging Missional Opportunities

- What new local needs are emerging that God might be calling us to engage?
- What new global needs are emerging that God might be calling us to engage?

Operational Questions

Sanitation

- What weekly changes need to be made?
- What Real time sanitizing is needed on Sundays?
- What changes and/or supplies are needed for outside groups?

Office hours and in person visits

- What guidelines do I need to adhere to in both in office meetings and home visits?

Semi-Annual Meeting

- We need to reset a date, and we may have additional items that need congregational discussion and or vote.
- Do we need to adjust our budget?

Guidelines for ill congregants

- We will need to communicate our responses to the above questions with clarity as well as give guidelines to our congregants.