



## RETHINK

## RETURN

## RELAUNCH

### **Rethinking Church as we return to our buildings and relaunch our ministries**

#### **The time to prepare is now**

You will need to consider many things prior to welcoming people into your space so that we do not do further harm and risk lives. These are only some of the many questions that you need to consider.

We need to proceed with great caution and be sure that we act responsibly and faithfully to provide safe worship experiences for our members, staff, and volunteers.

We encourage you to develop a working team of leaders in your community to guide your own church through this process.

These questions are a tool for your church leadership to use to begin the conversation and to serve as a catalyst for your planning.

Here are some questions to consider:

- Who should serve on your team to develop plans and protocols for reentry?
- Have you read the CDC guidelines and your state's plan for phased reentry?
- Who are the at-risk people in your community of participants, and what proportion of the total do they comprise? Are any of them staff and/or volunteers? How does that impact your planning?
- How will you communicate your plans with your members, online community, etc.?
- Will you continue to offer worship for those who are vulnerable and/or afraid to return to worship? Will you give them permission (and encourage) them to stay at home? And if so, how will you continue to be in ministry with them?
- As we move through state and local guidance and restrictions, how will you limit attendance at worship and other events? What are the benchmarks you need to reach before meeting in groups of 10, 25, 50, 100?
- How many people can your worship space hold if you are worshiping in family groups sitting 6 feet apart?
- How will you ensure safe physical distancing in your buildings? What will you need to do to doorways, walkways, sanctuaries and meeting rooms? How will you direct traffic as people enter/leave?
- How will you guide small group gatherings that have been on-line? Do you encourage them to continue their on-line presence or encourage them to come back to the facility?
- How will you ensure sanitation and disinfection of communal spaces following worship, small groups, or meetings?
- How will you update your building usage agreements after COVID-19?
- If someone who has been in your building contracts COVID-19, how will you respond pastorally to them? How will you do a more intensive cleaning? What is your communication plan to notify those who may have been exposed? And what are your responsibilities to notify local officials?
- How will your budget need to change to adapt to new needs for staffing, for cleaning, for changes in giving?
- Do you have the necessary cleaning supplies and washing stations recommended by the CDC? Are you able to sustain an ample supply?
- What will need to change in your worship setting to eliminate touching shared items (like offering plates, microphones, attendance pads, communion elements)?
- What common practices will need to change (singing, greeting, passing peace, children's time, etc.)?
- How will this affect childcare and children's programming?
- What policies will you establish for weddings and funerals? For visitation? Meetings?
- What happens if you have to close your doors again? How will you communicate your plans?