



LEADERSHIP QUESTIONS FOR NOW AND THEN

Having flattened the Coronavirus curve through massive disruptions to life as we knew it, many of us are starting to think about how we will do things when the restrictions are eased. At the same time, we are still dealing with managing the challenges posed by our current situation. For leaders of churches and other organisations, this means thinking adaptively about Now and strategically about Then. To do this well, Leaders need to address the right questions.

During a recent conversation about how churches are coping with the Coronavirus crisis, Rev Dave Rock, Lead Pastor of Church by the Bay, told me that every week he and his team discuss:

- What's emerging?
- What's dropping away?
- What do we need to watch for?
- What's missing?

I think these are excellent questions for leaders to keep track of what is happening in their church, particularly during this unsettled time. Inspired by Dave's example, I have developed an expanded set of questions that church leadership groups might address periodically. In addition, I have created a reflective activity that may help Leaders to discuss how their church intends to move into ministry and mission as we emerge from the current disruption.

Consultants from the BUV's Church Health & Capacity Building Team are available to assist Leaders to engage in these strategic discussions.

Rev David Devine

Church Health & Capacity Building Team

SOME QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS TO ADDRESS

- **Which people are emerging to serve in new ways during this crisis time?** How might you support them in what they are doing? How might you encourage them to continue their gifted contribution in the future? (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- **What new positive practices or thinking are emerging in your life and mission together?** Do you need to provide new wineskins (structures, policies, ministries) to contain this new wine? (Matthew 9:16-17).
- **Are there some unhealthy beliefs, attitudes or behaviours appearing among your congregation that you do not want to take root and grow?** How might you address those things now? (Acts 20:28).
- **What are you not doing now that you did before Coronavirus?** Are you OK with letting this go for now? For the future? How will you address expectations that the future will be a resumption of the past? (Isaiah 43:18-19).
- **Are there any people from your congregation who have gone missing during this crisis?** Who will take responsibility for making contact with those people? (1Peter 5:2-3).
- **Are new people connecting with your church during this time?** Who are they and how and why are they connecting with you? How might you collaborate with what God is doing in this? (John 6:44; 1Corinthians 3:5-9).
- **Are there some things you need to do now to prepare members of your congregation for the opportunities and challenges that you expect to come with the emergence from your present situation?** (Luke 12:35-38).

PREPARING TO MOVE – A REFLECTIVE EXERCISE

Imagine that your church has been living in temporary rental space for the past few months while your `home` (church as you have known it) is refurbished. As you prepare to leave the temporary space and return `home`, you realize that the old place will be different from what it was. To get ready to move into the new, you have several `boxes` to sort together.

Each member of your group should consider what he or she would place in each box. Then share your thoughts with one another to try to find agreement about how your church will move from Here to There.

BOX A

New stuff (ways of thinking or doing) that you have acquired during the Coronavirus crisis that you want to take with you into the future. You will need to make room for this.

BOX B

New stuff (ways of thinking or doing) that you have acquired during the Coronavirus crisis that you do not want to take with you into the future. You will need to let go of this.

BOX C

Stuff (ways of thinking or doing) that you stopped doing during the Coronavirus crisis but want to start again. You may need to remove the dust or recharge this so it has a fresh start.

BOX D

Stuff (ways of thinking or doing) that you stopped doing during the Coronavirus crisis and do not want to do again. You will need to send this to the museum or perhaps the dump and address the grief some may feel.

BOX E

Stuff (ways of thinking or doing) that you do not have yet, but think you will need in your new home. You will need to plan obtain or build this.

NOTE: If you have ever moved house or gone through another significant change, you will know that transitions can be exciting, challenging and tiring. Remember that people place differing values on various things, so try to be understanding and gracious as you discuss these things with one another. It may be helpful to invite a facilitator to assist you in this conversation.