

New Questions for a New Day

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The background of the slide is a dark red, semi-transparent image showing numerous COVID-19 virus particles. These particles are spherical with a textured surface and many small, protruding spikes (receptors) extending from them. The particles are scattered across the frame, with some appearing larger and more detailed than others. In the top-left corner, there is a small, solid orange horizontal bar.

Covid-19 has been awful for our country

- Millions have gotten sick
- Hundreds of thousands have died
- Institutions have had to shut-down
- The economy has taken a severe hit
- Our nation's polarization has been given a battlefield to play itself out on



Covid-19 has posed unique challenges for our churches

- In one week, we went from worship as we know it to on-line streaming, pre-recording and Facebook live.
- Clergy who had never heard of You-Tube had a channel or Zoom had an account
- We found ourselves doing things like worship outside, drive-by communion and VBS in a box.
- Much of our giving moved on-line
- We have learned to do most everything virtually, from meetings to pastoral care.



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We have a
combination
of collective
PTSD and
whiplash



**"CREATIVITY REQUIRES THE COURAGE
TO LET GO OF CERTAINTIES."**

Erich Fromm

**We've had to
get creative....
and that's not
been all bad**

- Most mainline churches have been in decline for the last 30 years (and the evangelical church is not far behind).
- We're getting older as a cohort and the next generation is falling away from worship service attendance AND Christianity.
- Bricks and mortar are increasingly unsustainable albatrosses we carry around.
- We have not kept up technologically. We've been snails traveling on super-highways



Corona has provided
us with the
opportunity to rethink
some things that might
help us chart a new
course and change
direction....

if we're willing to do it.

Rethinking Community....



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- Geographical boundaries have melted away as our worship has become accessible to those outside of Sunday morning driving distance.
- Those who were once excluded from community due to their kids travel weekend sports schedule or status as a shut-in can still participate.
- Esoteric communities can form outside of huge population centers.

The background is a solid teal color. It features several large, dark grey question marks scattered across the upper half. On the right side, there are three glowing yellow lightbulbs with radiating lines, suggesting ideas or inspiration. At the bottom, two hands in black suits are shown reaching towards each other, with a small glowing lightbulb positioned between them.

Question

What if we seriously considered how to foster community outside of geographical limitations. How would we....

Rethink fellowship

Rethink mission

Rethink leadership

Rethink worship



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Rethinking Formation....

- Our entire world has become on-demand with the exception of church.
- Education is increasingly moving away from lecture-style to hands-on/experiential learning.
- Shorter segments and multi-media approaches to learning have increasing appeal.

The background is a solid teal color. It features several large, dark grey question marks scattered across the top and middle. Three glowing yellow lightbulbs with radiating lines around them are positioned in the upper right quadrant. At the bottom, two hands in black suit sleeves are shown reaching towards each other, palms up, as if holding or presenting something. The word 'Question' is written in a large, white, serif font in the upper center.

Question

What if we seriously considered how to modernize our formation programs. How would we....

Rethink time

Rethink space

Rethink curriculum



Rethinking Technology

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The background is a solid teal color. It features several large, dark grey question marks scattered across the top and middle. Three glowing yellow lightbulbs with radiating lines around them are positioned in the upper right quadrant. At the bottom, two hands in black suits with white cuffs are shown, palms up, holding a glowing yellow lightbulb. The word "Question" is written in a large, white, serif font in the upper center.

Question

What if we seriously considered how to use technology as a tool for ministry. How would we....

Rethink staffing

Rethink our budget and expenditures

Rethink aesthetics

Rethink how we use our time



“Good leadership is about holding people together while they ask questions for which there aren’t easy answers”

Ron Heifitz

Even plagues bring opportunities....

- There will be the temptation to ‘go back’ as soon as possible.
- We have been catapulted into a world of new possibilities.
- Churches have been forced to become flexible in ways that make new things possible that weren’t possible before.

How will you spend your new day?

Questions?

