**Region-Wide Conversation #2**

**June 23, 2020**

**Is COVID-19 Effecting The Choices You’re Making?**

***The Choices We Make Today ~ ~ ~ Determine the Church of Tomorrow***

Welcome and Review of our night together (5-10 minutes)

1. Sharing this time and space together we ask that you honor some agreements:
   1. One person sharing at a time
   2. Listen closely to what the other person is/people are saying
   3. Vibrate your cell phone – and if you need to take a call, be sure that your mic is on Mute
   4. Talk for no more than 2 minutes – at 2 minutes you may be gently encouraged to wrap things up
   5. Make sure that others have spoken before you add a 2nd (or 3rd) thought
2. We will be having breakout rooms – you will be randomly assigned to one of 3 rooms
3. Facilitation - there will be a facilitator in each room, but we ask that each of you help guide one another to keep to some of our agreements
4. Questions that will guide the conversations have been emailed to you – so that you can also help guide the conversation
5. What we’re going to do this evening is to take a deep dive into the topic of Loss, Grief, and Lament through the lens of Maslow’s Hierarchy and Trauma-Informed Care --- we will look at how you are doing, and what you are experiencing in the life of the church
   1. **Behavioral Health – Rachel Johnson? 15-20 minutes** (Otto Schultz able to help)
      1. Maslow’s Hierarchy
      2. Trauma-Informed Care and 2ndary Trauma
      3. Loss, Grief, and Lament
      4. How is church safe and secure? How does it provide a place for people to belong and grow? How can people experience transcendence? And how does all of that happen when we are facing COVID-19, racism and police brutality, gender identity, and an upcoming election? How do we provide all three levels of community when discussing the budget? How do we provide all three levels of community when you study Scriptures, or racism?
         1. You can’t talk to people about Jesus until they feel safe
         2. Differing with me is an attack on me --- we move from guilt to shame in an instant
            1. Victim-Victor -- -I’m not going to wear a mask because I’m not going to be a victim to someone else’s decision; or, victor who says “I got this, I’m strong and healthy,” and victim that if I’m going to get it anyway, what’s it matter, I’ll do what I want
      5. Churches can be the safe place for people to feel like they come following COVID-19 – where are you talking about not feeling safe? In what ways are you exploring how to transform the uncertainty to a sense of confidence?

**Conversation: (15 Minutes)**

1. *Have you ever felt like you were in a situation where things were out of your control? How did you respond/act?*
2. *Where do you think the thoughts of people to follow, or not follow, guidelines come from?*
3. *In your own communities, what do you hear people saying about feeling safe? What safety issues can you foresee in gathering together in-person? What are the prevalent issues in your community?*
4. *What are some concrete actions that we can take to ensure that people experience safety in the face of these uncertain times?* 
   1. **Being Church “Living COVID-19”** and no longer “doing” something different --- but is there still denial of COVID-19? Are we taking precautions like face covering, 6’ apart, disinfectant ---- when we’re back together, the church leadership/membership will be in a battle about “policing and resistance” --- **Chris Morton - 10 minutes**
      1. Recognize Differences between Rural, Xurban, Suburban, Urban Churches
      2. “Fractal” – we are all the same, no matter how much we try to be unique
      3. DHHS Guidelines for Phase 2 (until June 30th) – Screen Share NE-DHHS COVID Web Site for Faith-Based Communities Guidance: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/COVID-19-Guidelines-for-the-Conduct-of-Faith-Based-Services.pdf>
         1. Sanitizing/Deep Clean
         2. Communion and Offering
         3. Singing
         4. What are the "new" ethics of dying in this time of not being able to have family or clergy present with our aging/ill population.

* How do clergy deal with the inability to be present with people that die?
  + 1. Effect on Church Budgets/Finances – counting offerings -- staff/payroll
    2. Are we creating a Hybrid Church? We’re evolving into something different, and we don’t know what the “it” is --- it’s unfolding, we’re trying to influence parts (e.g., media presence) in ways that we knew we needed to do, but didn’t until COVID-19 ---

**Polling:**

1. How is COVID-19 affecting your church’s budget/income? 50% - 60%- 75% - 90%
2. How satisfied are you with how your church is navigating being Church during COVID-19?
3. How safe do you feel about coming back to church? -- Not Back In-Person;
4. How safe do you feel at church?

**Conversation: (10 minutes)**

* + - 1. What is your church doing well?
      2. What is your church doing that is unique?
      3. What do you wish your church was doing but don’t know how to do?
      4. What have you learned about being Church during COVID-19?
      5. What has surprised you about what is going well as church?
      6. What do you hope will continue when we come out of COVID-19?
      7. What have you discovered about yourself that has been good through COVID-19?

Closing

Xmas in July --- appeal letter coming!!! --- in this time of change we are asking you, our supporters, to give your change and make a difference….

**Polling:**

* + - 1. *Would you be interested in a Conv #3 about Being the Hybrid Church of Today?*

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