

Hybrid Ministry Task Force: Workshop Breakout Session

Introduction:

- 1 in 5 not attending online; 60% want to return to in-person after covid but up to 40% would be happy to remain online
- Hybrid Ministry: DNA; our DNA hasn't changed, our purpose hasn't changed
 - D: define hybrid ministry according to purpose, not what-you've-always-done
 - N: identify needs to make effective ministry possible
 - A: apply methods that enable the participants to circle back and discuss based on their experiences
- Barna research during covid; gave recommendations:
 - Hire an online pastor
 - Push new media beyond Sunday
 - Audit services
 - Seek out the missing
 - Close the loop with discussion

Questions of the Task Force:

1. The Very Rev. David Trautman, Trinity Thomasville, GA: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to churches regarding how to build community with your broader community during covid?
 - Connect with your local business community; call them, visit them, build relationships with them; ask them how you can be praying over them; add them to the Prayers of the People
 - David's church does a Theology on Tap at a local brewery for seekers; during the pandemic the brewery worked with them to continue to offer it
2. Dr. Sarah Lebhar Hall, Incarnation Tallahassee: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to churches regarding equipping families to disciple in the home?
 - Do whatever you can to get families reading Scripture together every day; "Anything worth doing is worth doing badly," by GK Chesterton; keep the bar low at first, just be in the Word every day
 - Read for 2 minutes; what did you notice?
3. Ben Cheney, ChristChurch Montgomery: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to churches regarding their technology while building online communities?
 - Identify the purpose of the hybrid program; without knowing the purpose, you'll exhaust resources and volunteers; is this a front door or is it in-reach for adult education, or is it outreach, or is it for shut ins? Identifying the purpose will help to identify approach
 - Include short videos to explain about the church so they can 'visit'
 - Get good technology equipment
 - Golden rule: people will watch decent quality with good sound way longer than they will watch high quality video with low quality sound: put money into sound
4. Debra Gordon, Christ Church Vero: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to churches regarding communication in a hybrid ministry environment?
 - Hospitality is a major part of hybrid ministry, as is authenticity
 - Be aware that some viewing and engaging will not have updated technology
 - Make sure you have all materials available and posted in the online space
 - Your front door in an online community should be a chat or a direct message

- Don't be afraid of vulnerability and mistakes online
- 5. Wendell Kimbrough, Apostles Eastern Shore, Fairhope, AL: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to churches regarding their musical worship in an online community?
 - Music streaming into your iPad is less forgiving than a sanctuary space
 - Keep music streamed to online very simple; fewer singers and instruments will sound better online
 - Put your chord charts in the chat window and invite people to play along
- 6. Angela Jones, Trinity Thomasville, GA: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to churches regarding how to minister to families during covid?
 - Consider ministry of presence
 - Individual contact with families: video greetings, requests for prayer, etc.
 - Storytime outside
- 7. Rev. Morgan Clark, ChristChurch Montgomery: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to churches for pastorally caring for parishioners not able to return to the building right away?
 - Direct phone calls; divide households up and keep same 'assignment' to a team member for continuity
 - Be intentional in seeking the missing
- 8. Rev. Robert Seawell, Apostles Eastern Shore, Fairhope, AL: What is one practical suggestion you'd offer to Rectors who are trying to build online communities?
 - Don't allow your team to burn out; hire someone to help the staff
 - Have grace
- 9. Contact us: jjones@gulfatlanticdiocese.org