

COVID19 | Regathering Guidance, 29 April 2020

Many pastors are prayerfully seeking when and how to regather coming out of the coronavirus crisis. While churches have remained an “essential service”, pastors have still wondered practical ways to shepherd their people and love their community. For determining how/when to regather, I have been recommending this ministry math equation:

Community Guidelines + Church Demographics x Prayer = Date to Regather

Governor DeSantis released reopening guidelines for Florida that are to begin on Monday, May 4th. His current guidelines include keeping good social distancing in place while permitting restaurants to be open at 25% seating capacity (indoors) and for malls to be open at 25% capacity. Toward that end, consider the following in determining a way forward for your church:

1. Encourage the elderly and health vulnerable (including if you are sick or someone in your home is sick) to remain at home and connect online.
2. Determine the total capacity of your church worship center.
3. Calculate 25% capacity (ex. Seating Capacity = 300; 25% = 75)
4. If your church can conduct an indoor service with good social distancing and wise clean practices in place and within that 25% capacity, make final plans to regather; if not, continue your present strategy until community capacity restrictions are loosened.

Please note: Should you determine to regather, you will also need to decide on the scope – service only, Small Groups, Nursery, etc.). If you need someone to bounce off of, please contact me.

Better Together,

Brian