

1. Stay Connected

While there is a certainly a physical need, we are also have need of relationships. And in this hour of quarantine, though deeply important, our souls need relationships with each other.

Can I encourage you to stay connected in two ways:

SEA Groups | All of our SEA groups are going to meet in the next 2 weeks. Can I deeply encourage you to join in your SEA call?

Community Pastors | All of you serve in communities that I'm sure are other churches and pastors who are struggling. Consider reaching out to them. Both to encourage them, to synergize local ministry opportunities, and build relationships that hopefully will go beyond this moment.

2. Finances

Without the ability to gather together obviously limits the ability for your non-online givers to give. This can have some really tough financial concerns as a church staff. May I suggest here two items of response:

Decrease Spending | Find all the places that program dollars can be suspended. Find every nickel and dime that can be spared to sustain an extended time of not gathering.

Online Giving | If you already have this feature be sure to over communicate and simply the steps of how to for you congregations. Many in your congregation who don't give online may very well know you have it, but don't overestimate their inability to know the exact steps. Simplifying the complexity will greatly help.

If you don't already have this there are a number of websites that are offering online giving for churches during this crisis: <https://www.simplegive.com> or then even some are offering both online streaming services and online giving : <https://churchlive.io>

3. Redirect Staffing

There's a merging of two different storms that will deeply impact staffing: a digital kind of ministry and a financial one.

Online Services | Two major outlets of this present itself to the churches. Online services and online discipleship. While Facebook live can be a great outlet for streaming services, zoom.com has some wonderful outlets for your small groups and discipleship groups to continue to meet and disciple people. Consider encouraging your existing small group leaders to reach out to your members to continue to meet. Also, consider zooming an equipping class.

Financial Considerations | Along with now being digital many churches are facing staffing issues and job descriptions very dependent on weekend services. If possible consider every opportunity to keep staff busy (particularly from home) with teaching classes, phone calls, emails, etc. These are all ways to keep pastoring your churches and providing care for them.

Team Groupings | Four team groupings that are needed can help lead

While many of churches don't have multiple people on staff, the functions of each church are nearly the same. Below are some functions that you can engage staff, elders, or leaders to help do to see your church move through the next few weeks/months.

Facility Teams | Deep cleaning of all facilities. Sanitize and close down until ready to reopen.

Operations Team | Helping solidify and simplify operations of communication, accounting, response plans, etc.

Pastoral Team | Pastoral care for the church. From online services, to making pastoral phone calls or emails to every person.

Most Specifically, think of the families that now have kids at home and are needing to care for them in a way they didn't forecast. Offer them resources unique to the life of your church: lessons, prayer time, etc. One team will help pull together all the various areas of ministry into one comprehensive strategy. NLC put together a family ministry page that is linked to the life of the church and encouraging families to engage. See the link below to join and if it provides any kind of resources or ideas for you please use. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2485010001546398/>

Outreach Team | Dialogue with other community leaders to where to find the strategic partnerships to reach out. Schools, homeless shelters, rec centers, etc. Consider inviting the congregation to give to outreach opportunities or help other in the congregation in need. Not only does it show the value of outreach allows for a greater involvement via your congregation.