

8 Helpful Ideas from All Those “Leading in a Crisis” Emails We Are Receiving

Curated by John Wertz, Jr.

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1. **“With several months of online-only church, it can be hard to know how many new people have come on board, who’s still engaged, who’s left, and who may be drifting..”** – Carey Nieuwhof discusses so research on attitudes about returning to church and gives some suggestions for navigating the difficult process of gathering again. <https://careynieuwhof.com/when-your-church-reopens-what-will-be-left-and-who-will-still-come-some-thoughts/>
2. **“I write as a minister fully caught between the two dominant moods of the current debate on re-entry into corporate worship—anxiety and anger.”** – Sarai Rice addresses the feelings emerging as leaders and congregations begin to consider returning to in-person worship.
<https://www.congregationalconsulting.org/caught-between-anxiety-and-anger/>
3. **“Theologian L. Gregory Jones defines holy friends as those who “challenge the sins we have come to love, affirm the gifts we are afraid to claim and help us dream dreams we otherwise would not dream.”** - Victoria Atkinson White talks about the value of having holy friends to walk with us in the midst of the pandemic and the challenges and opportunities for ministry that we now face each day.
<https://faithandleadership.com/victoria-atkinson-white-when-we-need-holy-friendships-most>
4. **“I want to help you clarify which activities and offerings are central to the church, and which are peripheral.”** - Rebekah Simon-Peter offers some questions and a framework to help identify which elements of ministry have emerged as the most important for your congregation during the COVID-19 crisis. <https://rebekahsimonpeter.com/keep-the-main-thing-the-main-thing>
5. **“Especially in this season of anxiety and uncertainty, leaders need to step up their communication.”** – Mike Bonem offers five keys for effective communication during a season of uncertainty. <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/communicating-in-a-crisis/>
6. **“Emerging Paradigm is a giving orientation that arises from a sense of faithful investment of one’s resources in response to God’s generosity.”** Meredith McNabb talks about the traditional and emerging paradigms in religiously motivated giving and how those paradigms can impact ministry support. <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/traditional-and-emerging-paradigms-part-one/>
7. **“Growth and impact online are by-products of doing the hard work of helping people every day.”** – Carey Nieuwhof discusses five reasons that churches are now seeing dropping online attendance numbers. <https://careynieuwhof.com/why-are-your-online-attendance-numbers-suddenly-dropping-5-reasons/>
8. **“There will be no going back to a pre-pandemic church.”** – James Emery White discusses five expectations of the post-pandemic church. <https://www.churchandculture.org/blog/2020/5/21/5-expectations-of-the-post-pandemic-church>
9. **“I don’t want to be a prophet of doom, but as a minister in touch with many ministers, I see a coming pastoral crash.”** – John Dobbs offers an insightful description of the somewhat invisible impact that responding to COVID-19 is having on church leaders (and I think other leaders as well).
<https://johndobbs.com/the-coming-pastoral-crash/>