

NOTES FROM THE ARLINGTON DS – 5/19/2020

Thought for the day: Keep the mission before you; it helps focus and reduce fatigue for you and your teams

I've heard anecdotal discussions of lower attendance, and some lower giving after this weekend (I hope it wasn't my sermon!). I think these might be symptoms of "Mission Fatigue" in many cases. First, we ourselves are so busy trying to program and get stuff done and capture engagement and attention, that we forget why we do this, and that's an exhausting place to be. Second, our staff, volunteers and congregation folks are starting to forget without the tangible movement into a building – why do we do this church thing anyway? One suggestion – reinforcing the 'why' of church life, the mission we hold, and maybe some testimony of people who can speak to transformation for you.

1. NEW UPDATES:

- a. Reopening Information will continue to be refined: Watch for a new update tomorrow that might help some of you consider what to do next. We will be in Cabinet for the next two days, all day, so expect more refinements from that as well. Your feedback matters!
- b. "Exactly How Are We Going to Re-Open?" A Webinar (NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!):
 - i. On Wednesday, June 3, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., the Bi-District is offering a webinar that will dig deeper into the guidelines and help churches consider the minutiae of details involved in ensuring the safety of the community—both the gathered community and the surrounding community.
 - ii. Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd-qvqz4jG9Yos-8yGAm4VfOmo_0dbJD7
 - iii. This version is clergy only – but we will be adding opportunities for your volunteers and staff to discuss various ministries, like youth, and missions, etc. – so watch for those to come!
- c. Tomorrow at 5pm is the deadline for telling me if your church wants to do drive-in church or pioneering – let me know by email if your church wants to try this!
- a. Preschool & school re-openings: Just to clarify for the many questions on re-opening preschools:
 - i. So far, we have no instructions on reopening any kind of schools – this includes your ministry schools AND your renters. I know this makes financial issues tougher for many churches that rely on school rental income, but if your renter schools got a PPP loan, up to 25% of it can be used for rent, so hopefully that will help some.
 - ii. We can expect to see state guidelines for reopening schools, and this will be the basis of our preschool/school re-openings. I would not expect these guidelines before late July/August, but I would hope that this would be in time for a fall reopening. If county schools fail to reopen this fall, that will probably mean we will not either.
- b. A HUGE thank you to the churches that have picked back up their apportionment share giving – we are still the lowest in the state for paying apportionments, but we are not quite so far behind. If your church is able, please consider the District apportionment,

and your Priority one Conference apportionment. If you need help, contact David Dommissee's office, and they can go over it with you.

2. REMINDERS:

- a. Clergy Evaluations and Parsonage Inspections – are due by June 20th please! And thank you to those churches that got them done ahead of time! Expect a comment or two from me on those reviews – I do read them all!
- b. The clergy ZOOM call continues –Please join us at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday!
 - i. Remember – this is the new link (same as last week)
 - ii. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434526053?pwd=WTlyMDFlaHlreVRwelpyR1dRRnM0dz09>
 - iii. Or, you can use the old link with the new password: ARClergy
- c. Cynthia Lopynski from our office is offering mystery worshipers for your online services – contact her at CynthiaLopynski@vaumc.org
- d. Kim Johnson continues to do digital communications consultations – <https://calendly.com/kimjohnson-vaumc/church-communications-consultation>

3. RESOURCES:

- a. <https://novaumc.org/covid-19/>
- b. <https://vaumc.org/>

Stay Calm, Stay Connected, Stay the Course!

Sarah