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<https://tinyurl.com/yys4odnl> (4:07)
“In the Pandemic . . . And Beyond”
It’s a VUCA World

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V – Volatile

U – Uncertain

C – Complex

A – Ambiguous

Even as we steady ourselves (as much as we can) in our lives . . .
How can we get oriented as a congregation?

By asking three questions.

WHAT – To clarify our guiding assumptions?

SO WHAT – Given those assumptions, what are the implications for the congregation?

NOW WHAT – Given those assumptions and implications, what will be do?

WHAT

Four things we can expect ahead . . .

1. Stop-and-Start society until Fall, 2021
2. Long lasting economic recession
3. Climate change plus technology continuing to disrupt daily life
4. A Hybrid Society (More online + More small groups)

Stop-and-Start Society?

The number of cases of COVID-19 begin to fall – Start!

They rise again – Stop!

Then fall again – Go!

And so on . . . until a vaccine is widely available

Also: “Hybrid Society?” What’s that?

X – Large group gatherings

✓ – Small group gatherings (like over dinner)

✓ – Online communities

So what if these FOUR assumptions are mostly-true?

Here are FOUR things it could mean for congregations.

1. Even MORE ministry happens online. “An analog church asking whether online life is relevant is like Sears asking if Amazon is relevant.” P.S. Sears is out of business. P.P.S. Online life is 24/7, not just an hour on Sunday morning.

2. Small groups = even MORE important. Small groups promote “intimacy” and “ultimacy,” (relationships and meaning).
3. Clearly marked pathways become MORE important. “Pathway” (noun): A sequence of steps a person goes through in the process of meaningful growth. In a VUCA world of information overload and disruption . . . clearly-marked pathways help people know where they are headed. When we know, we can grow!

Some examples:

A COMMITMENT pathway toward membership

A WISDOM pathway toward spiritual maturity

An EMPOWERMENT pathway toward leadership

An IMPACT pathway toward fulfilling ministries

A congregation's whole mission can be a pathway . . . naming the impact on . . .

People’s lives ⇨ Teams and groups ⇨ The wider community

Inspiring ⇨ Equipping ⇨ Transforming

Then, you organize the whole congregation around those intentions.

Review, the first THREE implications for congregations are . . .

1. Online ministry: MORE impact
2. Small groups: MORE impact
3. Clearly-marked pathways: MORE impact
4. Mission matters even MORE! People are lonely and scared, and hungry for what we have to offer: The transforming LOVE that includes every one. (Even you. Even me.)

IF the Four things we can expect ahead are mostly-true,

And the Four implications for congregations are correct,

Then . . . What will we do?

Be a church for 1992? Be a church for 2019? Or, be a church for 2022 and beyond?

The world has changed. We are changed. Luckily, changed people change people!

And we are part of the love that never quits and leaves nobody out.

It won’t be easy.

It will take time.

We will mess up!

We will have to trust! Ready?

The adventure awaits . . .