

## Q&A Clergy Webinar April 21 and 22, 2020

### Liturgy, Worship, Pastoral Offices

I have a parishioner who has just asked about a service time for her daughter's Quincinera on July 25. I am uncomfortable giving a time for many reasons. Primarily, because of that phased re-entry you are just now talking about. I'd like help responding gently and firmly or with clarity. *Contact Bishop Susan to talk this through.*

I would be eager to learn the limit of the numbers allowed to gather; this would be most helpful for worship and program planning. *As we begin to consider what a phased-in reopening of our worship spaces might look like, we won't be able to finalize those plans until we know what the guidelines are that are given by the Governor. We'll continue to formulate the possibilities, but we just don't have enough information now to give you a firm answer.*

In keeping with this idea of "phased re-entry", I have a question. One of my couples who had to cancel their wedding ceremony would like to have a small 5-7 person marriage ceremony once the Governor's restrictions have lifted. If our churches are still closed for public, in-person worship at that time, might we consider allowing clergy to judiciously gather off church premises to support those who want to be married but do not wish to be married by a justice of the peace? This kind of re-entry is relevant for other pastoral offices. *Once the Governor's restrictions are lifted, we'll see what they are. Rolling out a re-entry would apply to all worship, including pastoral offices. For this particular situation (off-site, 5-7 persons), touch base with the Bishop for a final answer.*

We greatly appreciated Bishop Brooke-Davidson's online sermon last Sunday. Will there be a schedule for future sermon offerings from the diocese? *We're glad you found it helpful. Yes, there will be one every Sunday until Trinity Sunday. After that, we'll assess whether there is still a need and let you know. You'll find this resource [here](#).*

My altar guild wants to know if they should order individual cups with wine and bread for communion. Any idea yet? *Since there are so many open questions about the nature of reopening for worship, we are not going to offer any guidance at this time.*

GREAT RESOURCE: VTS Center for Lifelong Learning had another great webinar last week for liturgical practices during Eastertide. You can find the recording and the summary material [here](#). All of what is discussed is consistent with Bishop Goff's guidelines for worship now.

### Christian Formation:

From Paris: Office of Formation Updates: [www.dovformation.net](http://www.dovformation.net) - to get reminders on the dates of our regular gatherings. All resources we share will go on this site, the "cream of the crop" will go on the Diocesan COVID-19 resources page, and even MORE tips and ideas are always being shared on our Office of Christian Formation social media. Email Paris Ball ([pball@thediocese.net](mailto:pball@thediocese.net)) with the subject line "it's not all Zoom and gloom" and you'll get the log-in information.

## **Communications:**

From Nancy Chafin: what info do laypeople want and need? The response to our first letter talking about what we're doing now was very positive. Please let Nancy know at [nchafin@thediocese.net](mailto:nchafin@thediocese.net).

We also note that there may have been some changes to your online worship schedule since you first put your information on the Google Sheet for publication. Please check and make sure the information there is still accurate: Link to google doc for online worship services. Note: the delete/add column, too. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xc1IH5D4wMC\\_RLA93RYBIA\\_XJbJfN03HZZxHsJZYW9M/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xc1IH5D4wMC_RLA93RYBIA_XJbJfN03HZZxHsJZYW9M/edit#gid=0)

## **Finance and Administration:**

From Ted Smith: We reviewed a number of items on the Wardens and Treasurers call this week, including anecdotal experience with banks during the application process for PPP loans; this info was shared in preparation for the second round of funding. We posted a link to the new CPG FAQ, relating to pension payments among other matters, on the financial matters portion of the website. We discussed the payroll tax credit program for those who do not participate in PPP. There's now a link to the Virginia Employment Commission's website for information and application for extended unemployment benefits. From Mary Thorpe: We also discussed the challenges that priests and deacons are facing in this new work environment and encouraged wardens and vestries to be particularly supportive of their clergy, reminding them to take their day off and to set some sensible boundaries so that they don't burn out.

When will money which has been donated to the diocese earmarked for specific parishes be sent to the parishes? *Checks went out the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>. If you took part in that program and have not yet received your check, please email Ted at [tsmith@thediocese.net](mailto:tsmith@thediocese.net)*

A huge TY to Diocese for your help with PPP. We actually are the only church of five in our Ministerium meeting today that successfully applied.

From Julie Simonton: There is a great Family Systems seminar at VTS – understanding how to interact in a difficult time by understanding how your parish system works. [Info on the Family Systems presentation can be found here: https://www.vts.edu/event-detail?pk=7696354&fromId=219787](https://www.vts.edu/event-detail?pk=7696354&fromId=219787)

## **Focus Presentation on Missional Work in the Time of COVID-19**

***Presentation by Aisha Huertas, with guest panelists The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose and The Rev. Valerie Hayes (Click here for Aisha's [slides](#) and for her [notes](#))***

For Barbara Ambrose: We have begun to harvest fresh produce from our church garden, which we share with a local food pantry. We will likely have excess vegetables, greens and herbs. If the underground kitchen is interested, who is the best contact to receive these? *Email Barbara at [cats4cats@gmail.com](mailto:cats4cats@gmail.com).*

We have a garden that produces 3000+ lbs of food each year and are continuing the work this year. We are requiring volunteers to wear masks, maintain distance, wash hands, etc. What other guidelines or requirements might we consider to keep our volunteers safe? *Aisha's materials will offer much info on that, including links to guidelines from the Virginia Association of Food Banks that would apply to your group of volunteers.*

A comment from another participant: All Souls in Mechanicsville has a feeding ministry through our Community Garden. One simple measure we are using is folks bring their own work gloves and we only allow 6-8 people max working at one time.

Here's some additional data:

Direct request for N95's, surgical masks and/or cloth masks with pockets for filters from Physicians and Midwives in Northern Virginia Contact: Kathleen Bell, Nurse practitioner, by text at 804.514.8898

Community Comes First additional information - Churches can provide cards, notes, pictures, prayers to be included with meal packages - great project for adults and children! Also let us know if you know individuals and families who would benefit from receiving a meal. You can contact Barbara Ambrose at [cats4cats@comcast.net](mailto:cats4cats@comcast.net) If you would like to send in contributions or cards, letters etc can be mailed to me at 501 Roseneath Road Richmond, VA 23221. Checks can be made to Underground Kitchen.

Is it too soon to predict whether a mission trip to Appalachia can go on this summer? In August? *Unfortunately, it is too soon to predict that. We note that the staff of the national church offices have had all travel cancelled through the end of 2020. This is not a direct parallel, but it shows how there is much we do not yet know....* And maybe we convert to something local this summer in lieu of an Appalachia trip.... *Don't forget that you can add a virtual/mail element. Keep in touch with the folks in Appalachia and encourage them at this time.*

**Another resource in this complicated time: Note this May 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm webinar.**

[An Introduction to Make Me an Instrument of Peace](#): A Guide to Civil Discourse: Political divides are growing deeper, and many of us look to ahead in 2020 with concern and worry as separation takes many forms. We do not have to continue this way. Peacebuilding involves learning from and working with others, while also sharing different perspectives with humility and vulnerability. To solve our world's greatest challenges, we must learn to unlock the diversity of ideas and viewpoints as an asset for creating stronger solutions. This civil discourse training aims to enhance our ability to learn from and understand one another, and to apply that practice to public policy conversations.