



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

⚠ CAUTION

Leaving Comfort Zone

Moving Out of Our Comfort Zones

Dear Pastor,

It is astounding how, in very short order, a virus has moved all of us out of our comfort zones. Maybe, when the dust settles, and things are back to “normal,” we will all be evaluating not only what worked and what didn’t, but what our ministry priorities should be moving forward.

I’m cautiously optimistic that we’ll turn the corner on this thing before long. In the meantime, we must make appropriate adjustments. One of our ministry friends shared the following with pastors in his fellowship of churches:

“Let’s consider the present circumstances as an opportunity to be creative and think outside the box. What would you do if something like this lasted six months or even a year. We would have to come up with some real alternatives. An important key is communication. Your people need to know what is going on with your church. The electronic media is at our disposal but let’s not forget telephone, snail mail and personal contact...If the powers that be keep the maximum grouping at 10, our churches could not meet in public services. At the same time, we need to observe the authority of our elected leaders and not just choose to discount their guidelines.

- If you have capabilities to do livestream of your services use it.
- If you do not have livestream [reach out to someone who] might be able to help you set it up or consider [something like] GoToMeeting.com. [or Zoom]
- Use your deacons or family groups to organize small group gatherings in someone's home [within applicable guidelines].
- Prepare [or adapt] a series of lessons for home use and get it out to your church families.
- Challenge your families to use this as an opportunity to reach out to their neighbors who might be also stranded.
- Find older or shut-in people who might need support for doctor trips, food, etc.
- Use this as a time to teach home skills such as cooking, reading, home projects, etc.
- Sunday School, ABF, [and other] group leaders could still keep in contact with their constituencies.” (Dr. Wayne Vawter, Missions Director for the Wisconsin Fellowship of Baptist Churches. Dr. Vawter has pastored in Minnesota and Wisconsin.)

By now you have no doubt wrestled with and are working through the issues impacting your church and its various ministries. There is no “one-size -fits-all” response, and the list above is not exhaustive—just suggestive.

The point is that we are all being moved out of our comfort zones.

Here is another suggestion. If you have never connected with the mayor in your city, now might be a good time to do so. (S)he likely could benefit from an encouraging word from you, and from knowing that your church is praying for him/her. This might

be a great time to establish a relationship with local elected officials that will eventually open the door for opportunities to share the gospel. At a minimum, there may be ways your church family can bless your community. **We would love to hear from you how God has used your ministry to bless your community and at the same time be a gospel witness!**

Let's continue to pray for wisdom, and for God's protection on the ministries of churches all over our state. Let's also continue to pray for our local, state and national leaders as they wrestle with how best to respond to this health emergency.

"Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Your ministries are in our thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,



Dave Lingle
WFC Church Ambassador

P.S. In the midst of the virus situation and as far as we know right now, we still will be having an election on Tuesday, April 7. Just this week some new information surfaced on the WI Supreme Court candidates. We have updated our Wisconsin Family Council *Voter Information Publication* accordingly. The revised educational publication is available [HERE](#). We encourage you to share this link with your church family as they prepare to vote in this election. Early in-person voting is available statewide this week, and absentee voting by mail is also available. Information on early voting and sample ballots is available [HERE](#). If there is anything we can do to help to help you keep your folks informed about the election, please let us know.

P.P.S. Last Monday evening, our organization, Wisconsin Family Council, in partnership with DaySpring Church in Pewaukee, hosted a WI Supreme Court Candidate Forum. When we planned this forum, we had no idea how significant it would be. Even though we couldn't have a live audience, because we had good media coverage with our media host VCY America, the forum became an especially good way for the candidates, or in this instance, the candidate Dan Kelly, to get his message out when all campaign events have been cancelled. Both candidates for WI Supreme Court were invited. Dan Kelly is the only one who responded and also accepted the invitation. The Karofsky campaign and candidate did not respond in any way to multiple invitations via direct mail and email. We urge people to watch the forum soon and be sure to vote in this election. We encourage you to share the link to this strictly educational Candidate Forum with your church family. The video of the Forum is available online [HERE](#).

P.P.P.S. You and your church family might be interested in my take on some practical suggestions for dealing with the COVID-19 situation. If so, they are available [HERE](#). Feel free to share the link as you would like.