**QUESTIONS FOR TABLE GROUPS**

*“How has your church continued to be church in these troubling times?”   
“What are these troubling times teaching us about being the church?”*

*Comment votre église a-t-elle continué à être l’église en ces temps troublés?   
Quels sont ces moments troublants qui nous apprennent à être l’église?*

*[Additional questions raised by table groups:   
What do you think we’re learning from this that we’re going to bring forward?   
How can regional council support us?]*

* Minister posts video-sermon online on Facebook and is available for calls, follows up with church members. People follow sermon and everyone seems to be fine.
* Zoom services, about 60 people online. However, many do not have internet access, with Zoom pro-account we now have telephone access as well. This is an important connection to have. we also have more people participating now than in person (people who couldn’t make it before, people who live far away but are still part of our community of faith)… If we count faces, there are about 80-100 participating.
* Many different activities to support online worship services; it is very interesting to see how much interactive possibilities there are; communities of faith seem to reach out to more people even at distances and they seem to be more active; we are learning which means are best for which size of group - zoom better for smaller communities; Facebook live for larger
* Worship continues on Facebook live with minister. One of the advantages now: we are not nationwide, but worldwide. A number of intercultural churches experience that people from other countries join. Another great blessing is that some of the older people who could not come to church anymore are now able to join by phone. They get the sense of community. Financial questions: our member donations and fundraising have really been impacted. If this goes on for longer, we will be struggling. Only a few donations through PAR. People can send in cheques and also be invited to make donations on Canada Helps. Many people also find themselves in really difficult situations right now. Communities of faith do not want to put extra pressure on. Some help with food is also available.
* Ministries in French has organized an emergency fund for people in the communities who need support
* As ministry personnel, never imagined in their whole lives. Learning curve vertical – Communion via ZOOM (A lot of first times EVER). Will we really experience the presence of the holy spirit if we are not together? People seem to be appreciating the worship - Ministers are human beings.Youth Work is certainly different – gatherings online. Some youth are coming every weekday for check-ins on ZOOM.
* Community is rounding up old tablets and laptops to hand out to isolated seniors, although teaching them how to use them can be a challenge from a distance. It was shared that accepting that we CAN do something and making a movement transition as fast as possible is amazing.Mentioning that there are technology grants from National church – contact staff for more info.
* Keeping up with events online and making sure children's birthdays are recognised singing outside their houses giving out Easter chocolate.
* Weekly FB message, YouTube channel. Hoping to set up coffee time
* Weekly message online from minister, biweekly coffee zoom mornings shopping for vulnerable
* Beginning to develop online services.
* St Columba house take out lunches, meal on wheel delivery no visits seniors program online. Teaching us we are more accessible on line and the church is wider than buildings. Still a presence in our communities.
* In (rural area), people still working on the farm, milking cows, people are not active online. Phone calls are working well.
* Urban area-getting services online, good friday, easter, taped music, many phone calls. Building is closed but is being cleaned.
* Working harder now, double the time spent in front of a computer, A lot of people do not have internet. Many calls being made every few days.
* A lot of stress, We record music, zoom meetings, Young volunteers are helping, distance is hard but we are working together to meet 5-7 , etc
* YAYA groups, meetings on Wednesday nights, this has broadened our views and meet people, around the world.
* Sending crafts in the mail, mailing messages, online services and stated seminars and weekly meetings.
* Zoom services as of easter and childrens time. They want more music, we have a recipe exchange, humour, young women 5-7, messenger chats, training sessions.
* Grace and care emerging; Getting really real – more vulnerable and in-depth response to “How are you?” More depth of connection through prayer. Previous community building is coming to fruition. Pastoral care team more active, connecting regularly and supporting each other. Minister’s “dream come true” re engaging congregation in mutual support and pastoral care
* Morning and evening online worship daily on Facebook has been wonderful, relaxing; Encourages participation and ability to respond. People are sharing more in chats. Sunday worship from minister’s sunroom rather than big, empty, echoing church creates lovely atmosphere, more personal. Bulletins are online, on website, so people can follow along
* As LLWL, missing travelling to different congregations. In churches where there is no minister, the worship options are not happening but as church secretary, reaching out to people by phone. Personally attending multiple services on Sundays (children’s church, as well as several others). Enjoying experience of being participant and not always leader. Value of online courses and the use of smaller online groups for discussion
* No computer, but using TV to listen to other services/denominations. People are feeling more deeply. Asking if others need help and offering tangible support (eg shopping). Having the Regional Council meeting like this today is terrific
* Low # but still thriving. Hall is normally used more than chapel, so that has been a big change when not using building. Noticing change in numbers attending eg. 8 in person normally but 50 via Zoom. People are out there, how do we reach them?
* Surprised by how easily have transitioned to online, both ability and desire to do so. People from congregation offering ideas/talents to make it happen. Full gamut of people adapting to online, from youth to seniors (many adept with technology). Pleased to see how people are reaching out to each other. May need to become more organized outreach over time
* Suggestions for post-pandemic future:Zoom in addition to regular service. Making use of technological and technical skills within congregation. Keeping in touch. Looking forward to visiting people in person. The current experience of worshipping together online with other churches encourages the idea of have Zoom to reach more people in wide geographic area of congregation. Moving back from “Plan L “of how to attract new membership and go back to “Plan B”: finding a way to eat together while sharing worship, nourishing body as well as soul
* Resuming past successes: Fifth Sunday of the month lunch for singles and seniors after service. Lunch every Sunday after service with volunteers signing up to bring sandwiches, soups or desserts with a dedicated dishwasher. Creating fellowship requires some work, but is worth it. Donations help cover costs
* Other learnings: How to balance tech with in person. Importance of gathering and being together. Hoping to maintain level of personal interactions in the new normal.
* Most churches are using Zoom, smaller ones are joining with other churches. Also communicating with newsletters and telephone chains and newsletters. some people connecting to Zoom by phone. Some services posted online using YouTube, followed by coffee hour by Zoom. Book clubs also happening by Zoom, as well as childrens' services, friendship groups. Lesson learned: church doesn't just happen at a specific time on Sunday, more reaching out to people, able to reach younger people with tech, we are challenged to find new ways to be the church.
* Words that were mentioned: managing, challenging, missing choir practice, community still here, a lot of phoning, many zoom services and meetings, when Canada Helps donation link added to online service there are more donors and new donors, dealing with CRA at this time is critical, "seniors in nursing homes who have iPads aren't left out now," not all seniors able to get online, more bonding, more networking, had to cancel key events, establishing new ways to pick up mail, UTC doesn't qualify as community of faith so it is a grey area re; support which it is hoped the region will look into, communion online has been meaningful, PAR has been key to stable finances, more interaction with clusters, wondering if there is more participating on Zoom because it is less intimidating and doesn't require people to get ready on Sunday morning and get kids out the door, etc..., we have adapted quickly, set up support networks...
* Taking part in daily theological reflection group aide énormément dans ces moments difficiles quand on n'est pas ensemble;
* Two churches have joined for zoom services (about 30 people); church without being inside a building. “We have more people participating in our services than step inside a church on a Sunday.”
* We have had two different services going on; one in English and one in French. French is a joint with two congregations; ministers have been sharing responsibility. 30-40 participants. In English we have had 6 weeks of zoom services; 80 invites sent out and between 50 and 60 participants each week. Many participants over the phone - how do people have hymn words and prayer responses if they can’t see? Bulletin deliveries. “The Church Party Line”. Midweek bible studies done on zoom, and midweek meditation program where one of the worship leaders provides some biblical scripture and leads a visualization meditation, which was happening before Easter.
* Been keeping in contact with each other by telephone but not necessarily doing church stuff. On Easter morning all the churches in the area rang the bells for 5 minutes and made a big rainbow.
* National church listings make the joining of communities easier
* Been doing Facebook services - prayer services and Sundays? Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday zoom calls with connections to another congregation. But it’s totally changed church as we have traditionally known it, and in the future it will be different for a while.
* It’s possible to be church by making rainbows on the sidewalk and driving by people’s houses on birthdays. Even if we can’t gather in our familiar churches, we can still be church
* Brings to light the differences between rural and city churches, as well as the differences in ability to do digital ministry. And the willingness to learn
* Using this as a time to test out church.
* Responses back from people who have never been inside the church but enjoy what minister is saying as a message. Lots of people who are not realising what the united church is but have the opportunity to explore.
* It’s nice to be able to be a part of a community, from afar.
* We miss fellowship time afterwards. We miss UCW cookies :(
* in this sad and enriching experience minister and spouse lead (shorter) worship from the church: much appreciated by the congregation;
* How we’re going to greet each other will change (maybe). Really spreading out in church. Masks, gloves, hazmat suits. Hopes that we still reach out to the vulnerable members of our community, the people we maybe don’t check in on as much as we should. Hopes to still want to provide a broadcasted worship once we’re able to gather again; make it possible for people to go to church from their living room if they still want to.
* Pastoral Care minister continues, mostly by phone; congregation joins ministers e-services
* weekly Zoom services the past 5 Sundays (sometimes with more people than we had in person)+ weekly Update with (useful) news; Learning to live without the beautiful building we're trying to sell;
* Service now attract c100! The spirit has arisen as we respond with grace;
* how are our communities of faith coping: newcomer women sewing circle making masks - distributing them to places like Chez Doris, St. Michael's Mission, a seniors' residence in NB;
* Petit group se rencontre par zoom se réunit dans la prière, fait des références au besoin et partage information pour les services et programmes du gov't - mots clés: solidarité et écoute;
* First service on Easter Sunday via zoom plus Wednesday zoom of 20-25 sharing personal experiences, taking opportunity to update phone lists, student minister is a godsend for his personal manner and tech skills;
* Services on zoom, - most of congregation is elderly and not up to date on tech, phone tree and buddy system to ensure everyone is safe - especially senior members - younger members check in on older;
* Weekly service on Facebook - people can tune in live or at any time
* Care cluster support group with a leader for each cluster; Zoom meetings for support; Food ministry helping Mtl organizations; FB worship live and then recorded and available on FB; Virtual choir
* FB worship live and then recorded and available on FB; Council meetings via ZOOM; Pastoral care phone tree
* Zoom meetings for worship; Committee meetings via ZOOM; Pastoral care phone tree
* Zoom meetings for worship; YouTube channel for sermon; Sermon being broadcast over closed circuit TV in seniors homes via TVTOUR; Pastoral care phone tree; Lots of energy trying to get more people on Zoom; Collecting used tablets, iPads to get seniors in residences connected for video conference- looking for contacts at Apple or other tablet manufacturers; Looking to assemble a regular practicing virtual choir
* Online worship on website + Zoom. Activities (yoga, meditation…) online. Pastoral Care Team active + phone tree for contact, at least monthly, of ALL members. The Church is the people;
* Impressed by the sacrifices so many of our Mission and Service partners are making, putting themselves at risk to help and serve others. I've listened to many of them talk about their experiences over Zoom. I'll never forget one talking about risking getting shot to deliver food to people in need. These people are heroes and our support is so necessary!
* Webinars recommended, struggling with large building, continues pastoral care + prayer groups
* St. Columbia House must stay open because "essential service"; serves 130 meals per day! There's money available now; why not all the time?
* Finding that people not normally in the pews are attending FB services
* Finding the same thing with weekly fb service with people viewing from congregation, elsewhere in Canada, US and Latin America
* Would be good to include an overview of the many activities French communities have put together: <https://egliseunie.ca/ensemble-face-a-la-covid-19/>
* I agree with everyone in my group that we should continue to stay close and keep looking out for each other even after this is over.
* YAYA weekday group chat every weekday 3-4 tell your youth and young adults :)
* Church posts video-sermon online on Facebook and is available for calls, follows up with his church members. People follow his sermon and everyone seems to be fine.
* Offer regular group support, spiritual enrichment etc. for ministers
* A webinar about recording music and editing would be really helpful. It seems to be the next step...
* Yes please some help with how to record voices for leading singing.
* Affirming request - virtual choirs as well
* I also would like music coaching on integrating good quality music for the services
* A link for music coaching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoXM5wcpVNU&t=283s>