



Summary of the Recordings of Break Out Room: **For “Tech” Workshop**

- “What was your experience of Tech in worship over this past year?”
 - Use Zoom presently, I do all preparation; before I moved, worship was on FB, my wife taped me on smart phone.
 - I record the service and post on Face Book, we don’t use music (copyright concerns), I would like to do video splicing, but am unsure about it.
 - When we did White Gift Service, a layperson took a laptop to the home of a medically compromised young man, and recorded his reading a prayer.
 - We have service on website, and also upload service to YouTube. (uploading takes 5 hours with our reception)
 - We have an older congregation, many are uncomfortable with technology (or don’t have access), but the minister records services and posts on YouTube. We hope to be back in church very soon - minister will be doing dual presentation – in person, while service is live streamed. Just bought a S20 Samsung phone and a committee is preparing to staff the camera. Also we value not having to travel for meetings.
 - I do services monthly, need to learn how to use technology more easily. We do services face to face, I play music from my phone. I also like the weeks I’m not on duty to watch other services online, lots of opportunities and comfortable (pajamas). Also the valuable opportunities for Bible Studies from different places.
 - We don’t use Zoom or Face Book. We are doing face to face worship. The congregation has purchased a router and large screen (smart) TV, and since we have no musician we use Ralph Milton DVD’s. (This may have started before the pandemic; he may have said, before COVID the congregation sang with the DVD, but now they just listen)
 - I haven’t been to a church (in a building) for a year – sometimes I go to four on a Sunday with Zoom – pick up ideas. It’s the best we can do, but not a solution.
 - Settle in when churches use the lectionary.
 - Brought the two points together – that’s a first.
 - Good Bible studies X3
 - Had the annual meeting and great attendance.
 - Started very small with written and email – then started to record. It was 9 months later before the presentation was to my liking.

- Attended online before COVID since retired.
 - I feel like “I was made for online worship”.
 - People who can no longer go to church are attending online.
 - Was doing Zoom by the Second Sunday.
 - Asked Congregation – they suggested YouTube – that’s what we use.
 - Record, then upload to YouTube – Perfectionist - so I need it good quality.
 - Passing along the service to family and friends
 - Works for Younger people and older folks who cannot come to church.
 - Using Zoom for fellowship – before and after church.
 - Mailing services and newsletters.
 - Minister (or one person) with (or learning) the skills.
 - Recording service live (Back in church) – Upload podcast later in the afternoon.
 - Website – posting on Facebook – Upload to YouTube.
 - Many of us are using many different ways to connect with all the congregation.
 - Missing the Face to Face
 - One is using videos and podcasts instead of Zoom and FB. Not everyone is online, so some people still prefer the mailing out of bulletins.
 - There is a kind of online social group for singles that still meets. They use Zoom for church council mtgs.
 - People are eager to meet back in person; rural people prefer to see each other.
 - For older people, technology is problematic at best. Another mentioned that they have a young minister who is helping them get up to speed in using YouTube. People don’t like Zoom in this charge. They are also delivering bulletins to congregants, often in person.
 - There is no problem social distancing one older church building with a spacious sanctuary, and being a congregation of 12, they can socially distance and still meet in person for worship. Most of the congregants have no e-mail, and their health issues and adverse weather are further obstacles to meeting together. Mail can take up to a week sometimes to be delivered. Board meetings are normally held after a Sunday morning service.
 - Using videos of taped services and FaceBook. They wonder if Zoom might be better.
- Successes – What did you find?
 - More people see online
 - Folks and family from across Canada see the service from back home.
 - “Zoom” as a gathering place.
 - Include people in nursing homes
 - Finances are very good. X3
 - Still meeting in-person – only 6 or so. Hungry to get together
 - Many successes in Question 1.
 - On Palm Sunday we will have the young man’s prayers recorded again (will be in church again, laptop will be up front for him to pray for congregation)

- Weekly newsletter was appreciated
 - We're back in church, there is no congregational singing, but a soloist sings from the choir loft.
 - The positive for this congregation in using Zoom, however, is that they have more meetings than before with other people and congregations in their region.
 - Is the opportunity to get together with all kinds of people from within and outside the province (and from across the world) in online meetings scheduled and hosted by the Regional staff.
 - Two minister groups that meeting on Sound Cloud, which has been good.
 - One Church started a new website, and they have had 8,000 visits online, so it shows that it is advantageous to stay online even after they may return to normal.
 - Farm Radio International trains rural broadcaster, often emphasizing talking to one person (as did FDR back in the day).
 - Success with small groups.
- Challenges?
 - Low Band width
 - Getting boring with some formats
 - Missing shoulder to shoulder
 - Not getting fed from Zoom services.
 - Feel obligated or the need to be there.
 - People are not tech trained
 - Who does it when the tech person is not there?
 - Need to learn how to edit my final copy
 - Not everyone has a computer – some feel left out
 - Some say, “It’s not the same experience on Zoom.”
 - “Doesn’t feel real.”
 - We rely on digital media – try to be glitz, we miss the Christ
 - The church before this got through pandemics . . . without digital
 - No skills in the church – shallow on resources
 - Congregation doesn’t connect – isolated – no singing, no coffee time
 - Changes from Presbyteries to regions doesn’t (didn’t) help
 - Skills are limited – need to figure out a way to have music.
 - Copywrite issues.
 - The sense of loss is palpable - everyone enjoys getting together before the pandemic. Ministers miss the blessing of touch and handshakes and offering the benediction and prayers in person.
 - In the Alberta case, some refuse to interact online or on Zoom or FB; many of those prefer to receive copies of the bulletin instead.
 - YouTube has plans about circulating information on copyright laws.
 - On YouTube and FaceBook – if not compliant with these copyrights, a soundtrack could be pulled off, as well as fines charged.

- Future?
 - Online will be happening well into the future.
 - “COVID has forced us to walk the talk that the Church is not the Building”.
 - Check out “Forest Church”.
 - Definitely keep doing online (live streamed while doing with congregation) – many more hits weekly than in regular in-building services
 - Service on YouTube is so convenient for nursing home
 - I have been trying to think of how we might connect with a larger church, we might to part of our own service, then watch their sermon. (I mentioned George Bott’s system, that is its premise)
 - Go to a larger church with resources and organization.
 - Not Sure
 - Not much energy on this question.
 - Folks are keen to returning to in-person workshop.
 - How to blend both (in Person and Online) in the near future, taking advantage of online programming, especially for all those who will never show up in church in person.
 - How do we meet the spiritual needs of all these people?
 - Live Streaming needs qualified and available volunteers or staff to maintain it. Most expect the Ordered Ministry personnel to do everything in the wake of the pandemic.
 - If they can’t meet together in the near future they will need to live stream.
 - Considering using mini-sermons online.
 - Tried recording services, but the need is there to feel and be gathered in person.