



Ideas for Regathering Our Churches—Part 1

Serving Leaders in Ministry

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For more from Dr. Dance, check out his blog: <https://markdance.net/theblog/>

Pastors: Two pressing questions are on the minds of pastors and church leaders today: When should we regather? How can we regather safely?

In this FIRST of TWO articles on this topic, we will cover general considerations and measures to protect the church family.

This week, from the Baptist Pastors of Oklahoma that I am honored to serve, we curated several ideas from pastors in live meetings of 10 or less, as well as Zoom meetings hosted by our associational partners. These ideas came from pastors, for pastors, to help us shepherd our people safely back together.

General Ministry Encouragements

- Reopening should be viewed as an ongoing process rather than a one-time event.
- Communicate often, and through several channels, even when there is not much to share.
- Although you may be permitted to open on a certain date, decisions about reopening should be based on your local congregation's context.
- Decisions should be made in conjunction with key church leaders and additional members who can give valuable insight to the decision.
- Decisions should be consistent with federal, state, and local government guidelines. (In areas where local authorities have not made a statement, consider seeking input from your area.)





Measures to Protect the Church Family

- Do we have adequate amounts of hand sanitizer and dispensers?
- Have we adequately cleansed and sanitized the entire facilities?
- Will we require and/or make face masks available?
- Have we identified all the necessary health guidelines for all in attendance?

Example questions for attendees:

- Have you been in an area outside our state or contiguous states in the last 14 days?
- Have you been in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Have you had a fever, shortness of breath, or been ill in the last 14 days?
- Are you a member of the vulnerable or high-risk population?

Part 2 of “Ideas for Regathering Our Churches” will focus on key considerations PRIOR to your first meeting.

Helpful Links & Resources

Questions Your Church Should Answer—<https://kenbraddy.com/2020/04/28/48-questions-pdf/>

LifeWay’s Facts & Trends Article—<https://factsandtrends.net/2020/04/22/what-your-church-must-know-before-re-opening-your-building/>

