

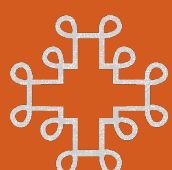
The Post- Pandemic Parish



“Getting
Parishioners Back
to Church”

April, 19 2021





COVID-19

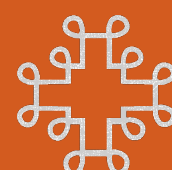
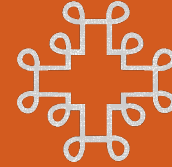
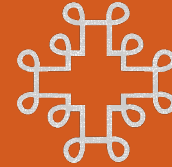
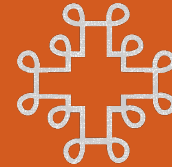
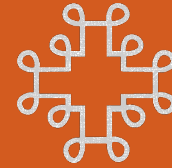
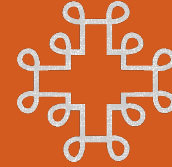
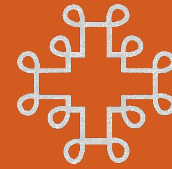
Parish Contingency Plan

PARISH PLAN FRAMEWORK

April, 2020



50 THEODORE ST.
NEW YORK, NY 10017

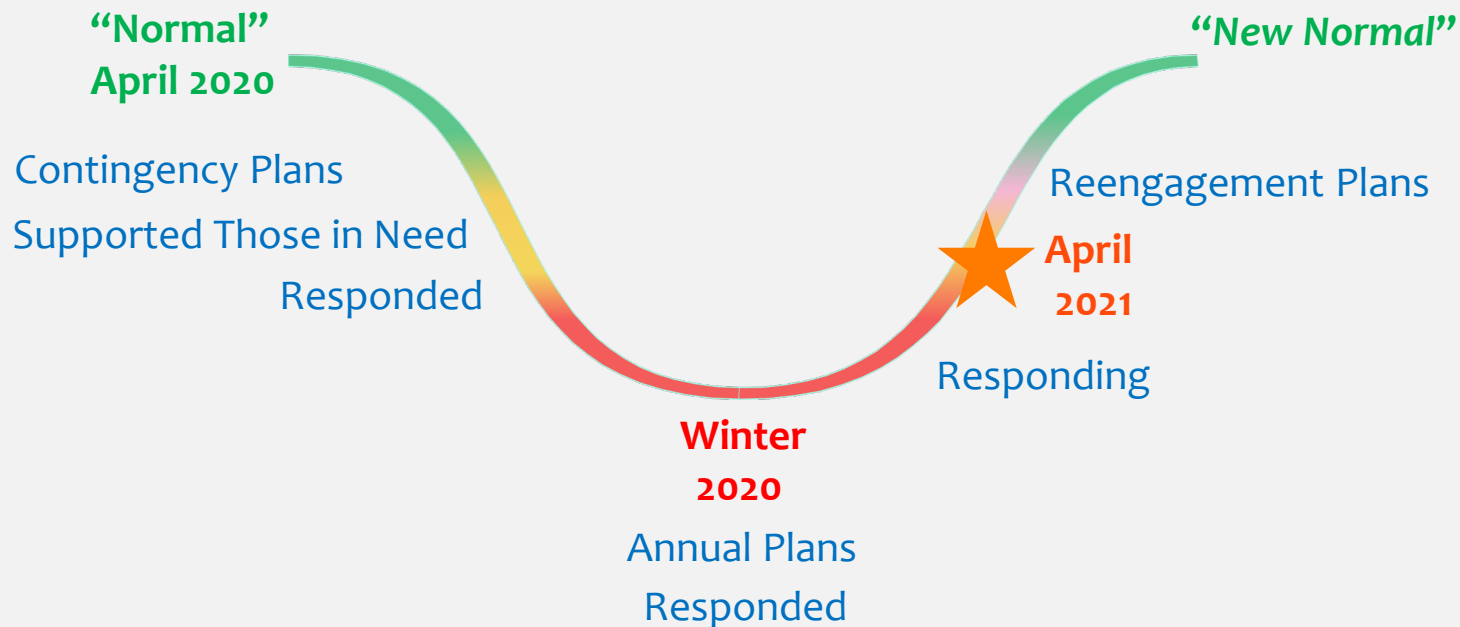




CONTEXT: OUR JOURNEY



Our COVID Journey The Year at a Glance





CONTEXT: WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." *Jeremiah 29:11*





CONTEXT: WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



1. We can move very fast
2. We can take care of those in need
3. We can connect in ways never before thought possible
4. We can look beyond our own parish for answers
5. We can be nimble and responsive
6. We are resilient
7. We can adapt
8. We can challenge our own paradigms:
 - Greek Festivals
 - Live - Streaming Worship
 - Digital General Assemblies & PC meetings, Bible Studies and On-line Giving
9. People do respond to purposeful need
10. If your parish was pre-COVID healthy – it remained healthy



CONTEXT: PARISHIONER PROFILES



Research shows ...

Things people miss about attending in-person worship services:

1. Taking Communion
2. Socializing before & after services
3. Listening to a live sermon

During the course of the pandemic, on average, only 3 in 10 adult churchgoers have had direct contact with their pastor

Live Streaming of Services does have a purpose, but cannot replace True Worship
53% - number of practicing Christians who watched services online

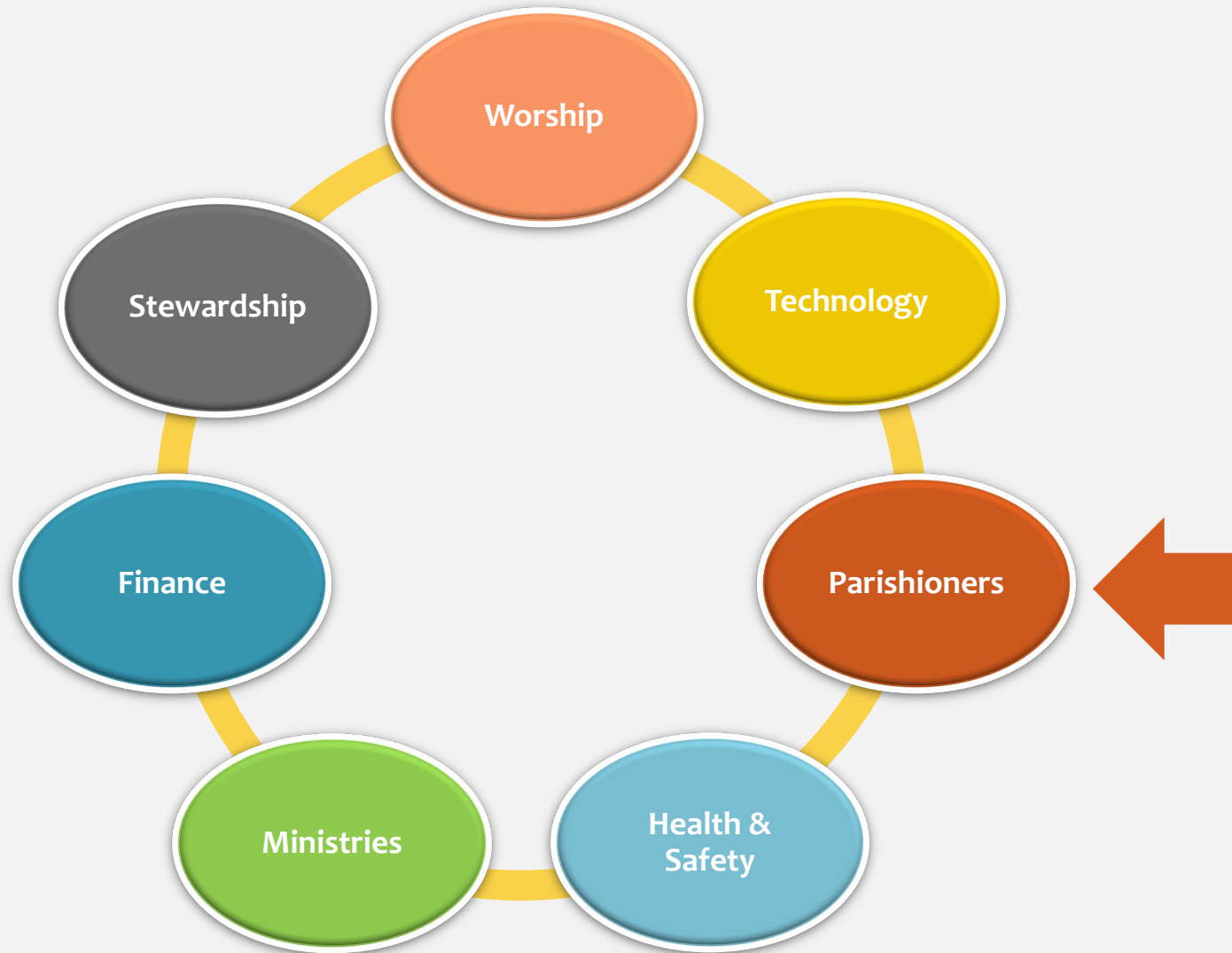
Largest Groups who have not returned to In-Person Worship:
Families with Children, Marginal Orthodox & Ministry Volunteers



CONTEXT: THE FULL PICTURE



Full Parish Revitalization is Multi-Dimensional





RECONNECTIONING THE PARISH



1

FORM RECONNECT TEAM

PRAY FOR GUIDANCE
CROSS-MINISTRY TEAM
LEADS PARISH
RE-ENGAGEMENT

2

DEVELOP PLAN

REVISIT YOUR “WHY”
NOTE WHAT’S WORKED WELL SO FAR
THE “NEW SUNDAY MORNING” &
PARISHIONER PROFILES

3

IMPLEMENT WITH INTENTIONALITY

DEFINE AREAS OF ACTION
COMMUNICATE
MONITOR
REVISE



1. FORM RECONNECT TEAM



1. Select Reconnect Team Lead
2. Build a Team of about 8 – 12 “Engaged” Parishioners / Ministry Leaders which may include:
 - Proistamenos
 - Parish Council President
 - Parish Health Officer
 - Philoptochos President
 - Parish Council Members (all or some)
 - Office Administrator
 - Facilities Manager
3. Focus: Build and Implement the Reconnect Plan

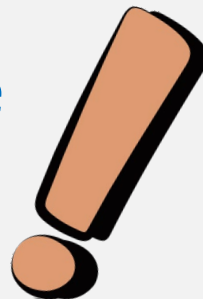


2. DEVELOP PLAN



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

1. Link to Your Why
2. Simple and Concise
3. Start Now, Develop Quickly (10 days or less)
4. Assign Tasks
5. Be Creative
6. Have Fun





2. ACTIONS



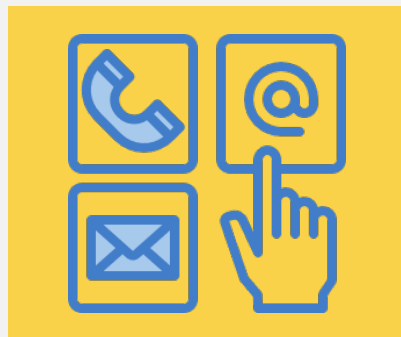
ELEMENTS OF YOUR PLAN

WELCOME



Form Dedicated Welcome Ministry
Friendly & Engaging
More Than a Hello
Outside the Narthex
“To-Go” Information Packets
Targeted Information
Worship “Buddy”
Includes Ushers

CONNECT



Form Connection Team
Calls, Letters & Notes
Contact List and Tracking

- Review Stewardship List / Parish Directory

Targeted Messages

- Invite to Activities/Local Small Groups
- Join us for Worship
- You are Missed
- Can we Help?

Contact More Than Once (in different ways)
Use Multi-Media Approach
Leverage Website



2. ACTIONS

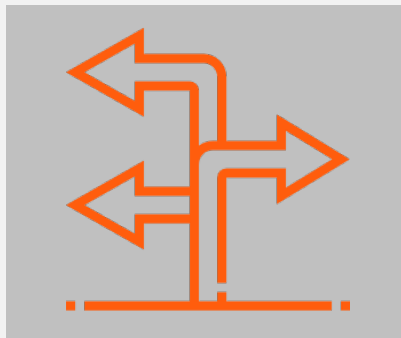


CELEBRATE



Parish Luncheon
Youth and Family Picnics & Fairs
Missed Anniversary Celebrations
Return of Coffee Hour!

SIMPLIFY



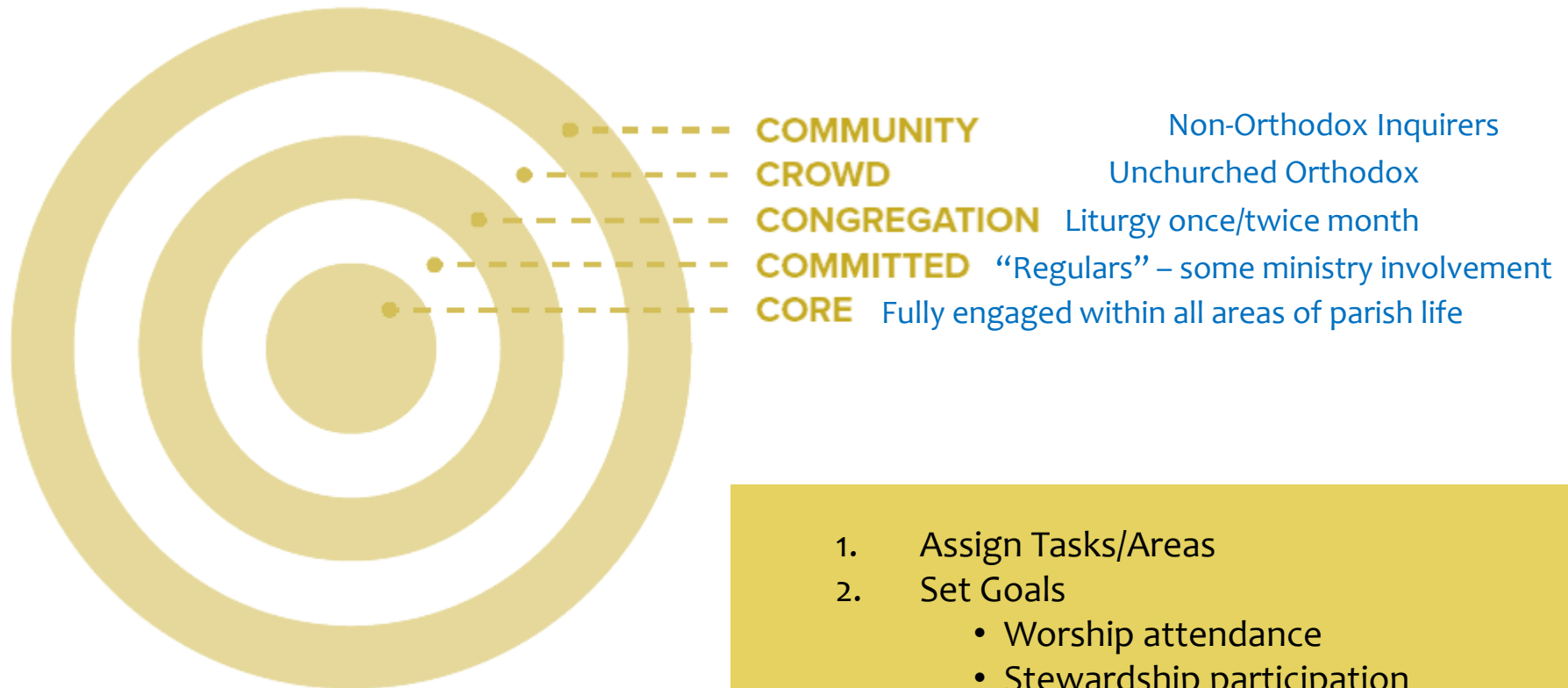
Take the “Visitor Walk”
Remove Visitor Obstacles
Clear Signage (Directional & Welcome)
Reserve Visitor Parking
“The Doors, The Doors”
Coffee Hour Sponsor



3. IMPLEMENT



IMPLEMENT WITH INTENTIONALITY – WHO ARE YOUR TARGETING?



1. Assign Tasks/Areas
2. Set Goals
 - Worship attendance
 - Stewardship participation
 - By Target Group
3. Track & Report
4. Modify Plan
5. Keep the Faith!



“And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20