

"A change in strategy without a change in vision." ~ Eric Ries

Adapt, Pivot and Thrive:

Why Churches Must Embrace Resurrection Over Resuscitation in a Pandemic/Post-Pandemic World

Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Lead Pastor/Life Coach, First UMC – Elgin PCD Strategy Team Co-Chair **revlaboy@fumcelgin.org**

Agenda

3 Shocking Statistics

Why The Church Must Embrace Resurrection Over Resuscitation (Biblical Foundation)

Moving from Surviving to Thriving (Pivot)

Basic Shifts all Churches/Nonprofits Will Have To Make

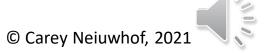
Example: What It Will Take To Have A Thriving Hybrid Church

Key Indicators of Success/Decline of Church

Critical Questions to Move Beyond Surviving and Adapting

3 SHOCKING STATISTICS THAT SHOW HOW QUICKLY, RADICALLY (AND PERMANENTLY?) CHURCH HAS CHANGED SINCE 2020¹

- 36% Attendance = New Norm
 - 57% of People Who Were Attending Church Pre-Covid found current styles of worship boring
- Most churches not doing online or inperson well
- Only 41% GenZ and 42% Millenials want to return to in-person worship



Why The Church Must Embrace Resurrection Over Resuscitation

- Resuscitation Lazarus (John 11)
 - Brought back to the same life he had before dying
 - Will eventually grow old and die again.
 - Resuscitation = Bringing back the dead
- Resurrection Jesus (John 20/21)
 - Essentially Jesus, but new form of life
 - Resurrection = Breaking into a completely new form of life



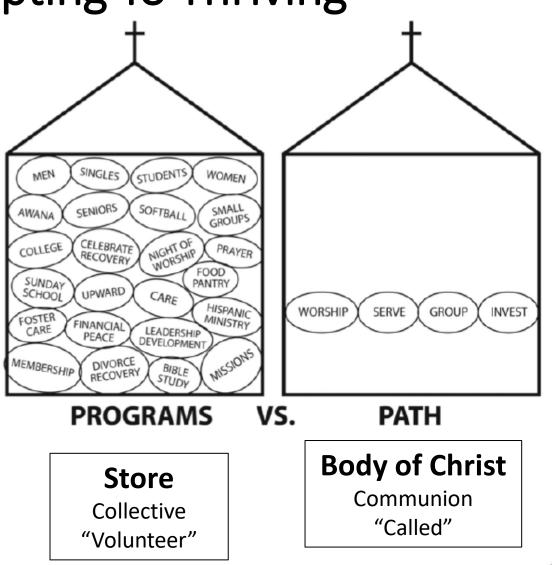
Moving from Surviving To Adapting To Thriving

• Survive (Acute Phase):

- Stabilize, Buy Time, Protect
- "Blizzard Mentality"
- Normal to want to go back to what is familiar

• Adapt:

- Develop the capacity to address underlying issues that we didn't have the will to confront
- "Ice Age Mentality"
- "Adaptive leadership...seizes the opportunity of moments like this to hit "the organizational reset button" while keeping the DNA/mission of the organization.
- Requires a New Process
 - Adaptive Change v. Technical Change



• Pivot (Thriving Phase)

- See obstacles as opportunities
- Privilege leadership over management
 - Mission over process
 - "Are we doing the right things?" vs. "Are we doing things right?"
- Reimagine, retool and reorganize
 - Constantly learning organizations
 - Learning from outside of conventional norms
- Have a process for change and change as required by mission
- Recognize that change produces innovation and opportunity for growth





Best Strategy – Protect, Prioritize and Pivot

• Protect.

• What do we need to protect to ensure maintain our ministry in the coming weeks and months?

• Prioritize.

 We know we can't put our strategy on hold, so what is mission critical for us to deliver in the coming weeks and months?

• Pivot.

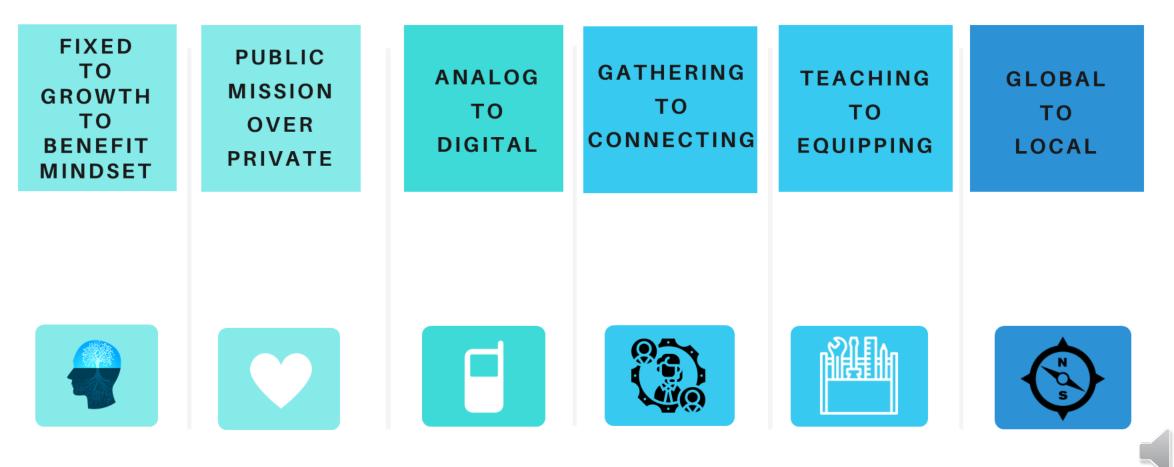
 How might we engage people in different ways to deliver on our church's priorities?





SHIFTS ALL NON-PROFITS/CHURCHES NEED TO MAKE

ALL REQUIRE INTUITION (SPIRIT), HUMILITY, SURRENDER



Example: Hybrid Church: Foundation Different Alignments²

Strategic Alignment Pyramid



Two Types of Alignment

* WITH PEDPLE	WITH PEOPLE
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH	INSIDE THE CHURCH
CONNECT USING	CONNECT USING CHURCH
SOCIAL MEDIA	APP, EMAIL, FACEBOOK
WEBSITG & EMAIL	GROUPS, MESSAGING APPS
CELEBRATE OUR	CELEBRATE DUR
COMMUNITY	MISSION
PROVIDE HELPS ANSWERS FOR LIVING LIFE	EQUIP + EMPOWER TO LIVE OUT FAITH
POINT PEOPLE	POINT PEOPLE
TO FIRST STEPS	TO NEKT STEPS
(SMALL, BABY STEPS)	(NOT EVENTS)
CLARIFY YOUR	CLARIFY YOUR
MISSION FIELD	DISCIPLESHIP PATH
TRACK PEOPLE (BY	TRACK PEOPLE (BY
NAME) WHO HAVE	NAME) WHO ARE TAILING
TAKEN A FIRST STEP	NEXT STEPS
WIN = BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS!	WIN = HELP OTHERS BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS!

* MOST OF THE CONVERSATION I'VE HEARD HAS IGNORED THIS TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT.

Key Indicators of Success/Decline

Success: Greater Kingdom Impact

- Mission + Vision
 - Clarity and Commitment
 - Emphasis on Prayer/Spirit
- Reach/Benefit Mindset
 - In/Outreach
- Discipleship
 - Love God/Love Neighbor
- Reduce Complexity
- Empower Leaders (Disciples)
- Mistakes = Learning Going On

Declining Churches

- Lack of Clarity Mission + Vision
 - Club/Store mentality
 - Execution \geq Mission/Vision
- Growth is families
- No/Immature Discipleship Path
- Complexity in Programming/ Decision Making
- Leadership not empowered to lead
- Staff \geq Members
- Demand Perfection



Critical Questions We Need To Ask To Protect & Pivot

- What spiritual practices do we need to discern, reimagine and to move forward?
- What is **our reality** from the balcony and the floor? ("What's Bugging Us")
 - Organizationally
 - Individually
- What is **essential to our identity** (What can never change)?
- What are the **available assets** (ours and others)?
- What can be **discarded**?
- What needs to be created through experimentation?
- Where do we **start**? Resources to help
 - Upgrade Appreciative Inquiry/30 Day Pivot (Neiuwhof)/Unstuck Group/Barna





Contact Info

Dr. Felicia LaBoy Lead Pastor/Life Coach First UMC (Elgin) <u>revlaboy@fumcelgin.org</u> 773-217-9844

www.fumcelgin.org



@fumcelgin.org

