



White Paper Discussion Guide

1. Those who have been called to faith in Jesus want to gather with others who share their faith; however, what are some things that can prevent people from wanting to gather?
2. There are many reasons some are not ready to come back to public worship. What do you suppose is the most common reason some haven't been back to worship in *your* congregation?
3. To a certain degree it has always been "riskier" (falling on ice, car accidents, viruses, etc.) to leave the house and come to church than to stay at home. How might we help our fellow Christians assess risk levels and consider the reward of gathering for worship?
4. Agree/Disagree: When we are encouraging fellow believers to come back to worship it is better to emphasize the blessings of in-person worship than to lay a guilt trip on them.

5. Are there ways we could help people better appreciate and understand the bond that we have as “brothers and sisters” in Christ? Are there ways we could better teach/demonstrate the unity we express in Holy Communion?

6. How is gathering for worship in-person a blessing for our fellow Christians?

7. Our actions send a message. Consider what message might be communicated to our family, our neighbors, or our congregational family when we make it a priority to gather together. What are some ways we can practically emphasize the importance of this message?

8. The mission of a Christian congregation is simple: preach the gospel. We preach the gospel to strengthen believers and to share the good news with the world around us. However, there are many other things that congregations do as a part of gospel ministry. How might our current situation allow us to evaluate which things are central to our mission and which things might be a distraction?

9. Like their Savior, a Christian congregation seeks to serve rather than be served. What are ways that our congregation can look to serve our community?

10. We might have many concerns about what our congregation will look like after this current challenge. How does the fact that the Church is Jesus’ Church and not ours give us confidence and comfort as we go forth boldly to be the body of Christ?