

**ITEM P.204
FOR INFORMATION**

Research Services COVID-19 Survey

About two weeks ago, Research Services initiated a survey of PC(USA) congregations participating in the US Congregational Vitality survey regarding the impact of COVID-19. As of April 14, 2020, 1,075 responses have been received. Results are summarized on the next page.

COVID-19 and PC(USA)

84 Congregations have COVID-19+ members

Mid Council response

- 90% feel supported by their mid council leader
- 65% regular contact with church staff
- 62% Zoom, conference calls to communicate with churches
- 31% assisting congregation's response
- 11% unaware of presbytery response or actions

Connecting mainly online

- 62% streaming meetings
- 39% streaming Christian education and formation
- 29% fellowships
- 2% funerals (13)

- 52% worship online different format
- 26% worship online same format

- Multiple worship options:
 - 68% Facebook
 - 44% website
 - 44% YouTube
 - 17% Zoom
- Challenges
 - 59% technology
 - 35% creating engaging interaction
 - 33% sound quality
 - 28% Preaching or singing to an empty room

- 84% did not offer online programming before the crisis

Congregational response

- 34% are praying for healthcare workers, expanding food distribution
- 25% sewing masks
- 18% No response
- Other
 - Began porch ministries – delivering food and other necessities for homebound and seniors
 - Set time to pray for the COVID-19 crisis
 - Using church kitchen in partnership with other organizations to prepare food for those in need.
 - Partnering with hospitals to use church facilities for testing, patient care, and overflow beds.
 - Opening facilities for those who are homeless and adding port-a-lets, wash stations in parking lots,
 - Praying for healthcare workers, first responders, and supply chain workers
 - Coordinating childcare for first responders

Finances

- 78% drop in income
- 13% essentially stopped (134) 

- 55% will be tight but we can manage
- 22% finances are not a significant concern
- 11% expect significant cuts
- 7% loss is more than we can bear (68)

Mid Council related:

- The Seattle Presbytery has done an outstanding of leading and supporting our congregations during this time!
- ... connected the large churches to us small ones for streaming worship
- Keeping us "linked" with helpful sites.

Congregations:

- Our elderly are frightened and lonely. It takes me hours just to make a few phone "visits" because people are so stressed and hungry for connection.
- The aftermath of this time will be a burden on pastors and presbyteries who are already doing some heavy lifting now. The backlog of memorial services, and face-to-face visits, plus the churches that will not be able to stay open, will create a lot of long-term work for leadership. Please be prepared to help pastors and Presbytery staff share this coming burden, have resources for self-care and renewal, and receive adequate support and flexibility for the different circumstances.
- Our biggest challenge is that our congregation is elderly
- Excited about church-wide Easter presentations from Louisville
- As terrible as this is, I already see tremendous benefit. Families spending time together. Creative energy being poured into worship experience BY LAITY!!
- ...we have a unique opportunity to expand in areas where we should have been before – online.
- Thank you for asking and providing guidance

“Quotes”