

Commission on Witness “How are We Witnessing” Survey

As we navigate our way through the suggestions and regulations for gathering during the Coronavirus Pandemic, each of our congregations are needing to be creative as we share the Good News with each other, with the unchurched, and with our children and youth. Please take a minute to answer the following survey. Mary St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture, and Witness, will be compiling our responses in the hope that we can help one another as we find new ways of reaching out to our members and our communities.

1. Is your congregation predominately using technology to reach out? If yes, please share which technological formats you are using and give a brief reason why this one seems to work best. (ZOOM, emails, conference calls, YouTube, Facebook, etc.)
2. Is your congregation unable to communicate with technology? If yes, then are you finding an increase in mailings of newsletters, prayer concerns, etc. How are you keeping in personal contact?
3. Does your church allow entry of any sort, such as for private prayer time, musical instrument usage, etc.? If yes, how often do you have congregants coming to the building?
4. Does your church participate in “Drive-In” worships? If yes, do you instruct people where to park? Do you have a full-service time? Is there music offered?
5. Do you have a supply closet or food pantry? If yes, how are you safely sharing these things with your members and/or communities?
6. Do you regularly have a phone chain or prayer chain? If yes, are you finding more ways to add people who may be marginal attendees, so that their concerns may be added?
7. Are you encouraging card ministry? If yes, have you organized a way to include ALL members, even those who do not attend regularly?
8. Are you encouraging tithing? If yes, how are you making it easier for people to give?

9. Is someone in your congregation keeping in touch with each family who has a child or teenager in their home? If yes, are you finding ways to keep them interested in Bible study at home?
10. Are the elderly hospitalized and shut-in members being ministered to? If yes, tell how you have managed to keep a sense of visitation and comfort to those in need.
11. For those who have had to comfort members due to loss of life, how have you been able to honor the lives of those who would have had a memorial service, but due to current restrictions were limited to immediate family graveside services?
12. Are pastors, deacons, and other leaders in the church meeting regularly? If yes, are you communicating your needs effectively to one another?
13. Are you finding ways to keep up Bible study, Sunday School lessons, and other devotions in a shared format? If yes, explain how members can study and ask questions together.
14. Are you finding it difficult to maintain the church property, as volunteering and staffing have perhaps become less available? If yes, explain these difficulties.
15. Share with us, in hopes of providing a creative idea that we can all use, some of the new ways your congregation has chosen to share the Good News with others.

Thank you for filling out the survey.

Please email your responses to Mary St. John, at virlina2@aol.com

or mail them to Mary at

Virlina District Resource Center,

3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, Virginia 24012.