

Church In These VUCA Times

Jake Morrill: <https://youtu.be/0uAKQXagwms>

It's a VUCA world: But you knew that!

- V=Volatile
- U= Uncertain
- C= Complex
- A= Ambiguous

THREE QUESTIONS: Even as we steady ourselves (as much as we can), how can we get oriented as a congregation?

- WHAT: to clarify our guiding ASSUMPTIONS
- SO WHAT: given those assumptions, what are the IMPLICATIONS for congregations?
- NOW WHAT: given those IMPLICATIONS, what will we do?

WHAT: things we could expect up ahead....

- Stop-and-Start until Fall 2021
- Long-Lasting Economic Recession
- Climate Change + Technology Continuing to Disrupt Daily Life

STOP-AND-START?

- Cases of Covid-19 fall: START!
- They rise again: STOP!
- They fall again: GO!
- And so on....
- Until a vaccine is widely available.
- SIGH.....

HYBRID SOCIETY: What is that?

- No large groups
- Small group gatherings (like over dinner) + Online Communities

SO WHAT? If those assumptions are mostly – true? Here are things it could mean for congregations....

- Even MORE ministry happens online
 - An analog church asking whether online life is relevant. –Carey Nieuwhof
 - P. S. Sears is out of business. P. P. S. Online life is 24/7 not just for an hour on Sunday mornings.
- Small Groups = even MORE important
 - Small groups promote “intimacy” and ‘Ultimacy’ (relationships and meaning)
- Clearly – Marked Pathways become MORE important. Wait...what’s a “pathway”?
 - “Pathway” (noun): a sequence of steps a person goes through in a process of meaningful
 - Growth.
 - In a VUCA world of information overload and distraction? Clearly – marked pathways
 - Help people know where they’re headed. When we KNOW, we can GROW.
 - Some examples of Pathways:

- --A COMMITMENT Pathway toward Membership
- --A WISDOM Pathway toward Spiritual Maturity
- --An EMPOWERMENT Pathway toward Leadership
- --An IMPACT Pathway toward fulfilling Mission
- A congregation's whole MISSION can be a pathway....
 - --Naming the impact on....
 - --People's Lives → Teams & Groups → The Wider Community
 - --Inspiring → Equipping → Transforming for instance...

MOST VITAL ASSUMPTION: Mission matters even MORE!

- People are lonely and scared. And hungry for what we have to offer: The transforming LOVE That includes EVERYONE. (even you, even me)
- IF...
 - Stop – and – Start Society Until Fall 2021
 - Economic Recession
 - Ongoing Climate Change + Tech Disruptions
 - Hybrid Society (Small Groups + Online)
- AND...
 - Online Ministry: MORE important
 - Small Groups: MORE important
 - Clearly – marked Pathways: MORE important
- THEN...
 - What will we do: Be a church for 1962? For 1992? For 2019? Or for 2022.....and beyond?

CHANGED PEOPLE CHANGE PEOPLE:

- The world has changed. We are changed. Luckily, changed people change people. And we are part of the LOVE that never quits and leaves nobody out.

- It WON'T be easy.
- It WILL take time.
- We WILL mess up!
- We WILL have to trust...

- READY?

- THE ADVENTURE AWAITS!