

---

# Blank Slate Webinar

Thom and Sam Rainer

---

The following notes are from Thom & Sam Rainer's "Blank Slate" webinar that took place on April 17th, 2020 on the topic of what church may be like post-COVID-19. Compiled by Tim Strickland. Video link: <https://event.webinarjam.com/replay/16/846mlcraknaw7tgxq>

## **Eight Steps for Churches to Prepare for a Post-Covid-19 World**

### **1. Most Closed-End Small Groups will become permanently digital**

- "Closed End" means they have an end date—6, 8, 13 weeks, i.e. Membership Classes

### **2. Senior Adult Ministry will change dramatically.**

- They will be the last to return
- This is an opportunity to move Seniors to digital giving
- Sam's church found it was cheaper to send cheap Chromebooks to seniors and teach them how to use them, than to produce DVD's, and deliver them

### **3. Elements of Social Distancing will become permanent for churches.**

- Handshakes, hugs, etc...
- Worship Center Capacity will go down to at least 60% of capacity
  - You may need to add extra services
  - Do your math, plan now if this applies to you
- Guests to your church will be extra sensitive to safety/cleanliness issues
- One of the best things you can do is to have a clean-smelling facility

### **4. Community Outreach will move to the community.**

- The church will go to the community more than the community will go to the church

### **5. The In-Church Worship Gathering will be much more important.**

- (More important to your people, they are not suggesting it wasn't theologically important before)
- We may see church attendance frequency take a turn for the better (at least in the mid-term, long-term is harder to say)
- Other activities will be reconsidered (i.e. closed-in groups mentioned above)

### **6. Cash Giving will fade quickly.**

- You need to be fully prepared for automated/scheduled giving
- Likely under 3% of your giving post-COVID-19

### **7. More Church Buildings and Sites will be available.**

- Currently 6-8K annually, may be 12-14K post-COVID-19 (USA numbers)
- Consider Multi-site even if you never have before

---

## 8. Budgets will never be the same.

- Sam's church did best-case, expected-case and worst-case scenarios (0%/-25%/-50%)
- There could be a recession that you should plan for
- Even if you don't see a dip, this is a moment to re-adjust - this is what happened in churches after the Great Depression
  - Be thinking about the costs of your digital strategies
  - Budget for digital needs - now is the time

### Questions to Consider:

- What do the Eight Steps mean to you and your church that may be helpful for other pastors to hear?
- Do any of the Eight Steps apply differently in our the Canadian context?