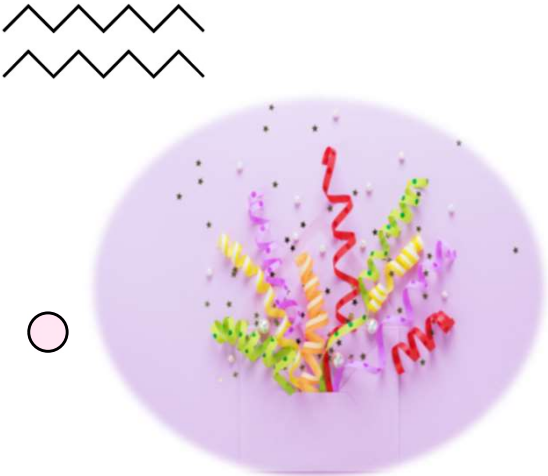


Session
Structure in
a Post
Pandemic
Environment

Presented by Jeanne Radak -
Presbytery Leader



1



Introduction

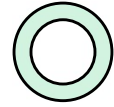
Why are we here
What we will cover
What happened to get us
here...



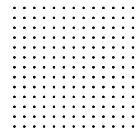
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2

What Changed...



- Worship
- Decision Making process
- ZOOM meetings
- Political Polarities
- New Reality
- Attendance?
- Stalled. Suspended.
- Trauma and Exhaustion
- Technical still there
- On Hold or off Track



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POST PANDEMIC SESSION STRUCTURE

3

3



Overall

- Exhausted
- Traumatized
- Stalled
- Liminal Space
- Stressed
- Loss of direction
- Disoriented

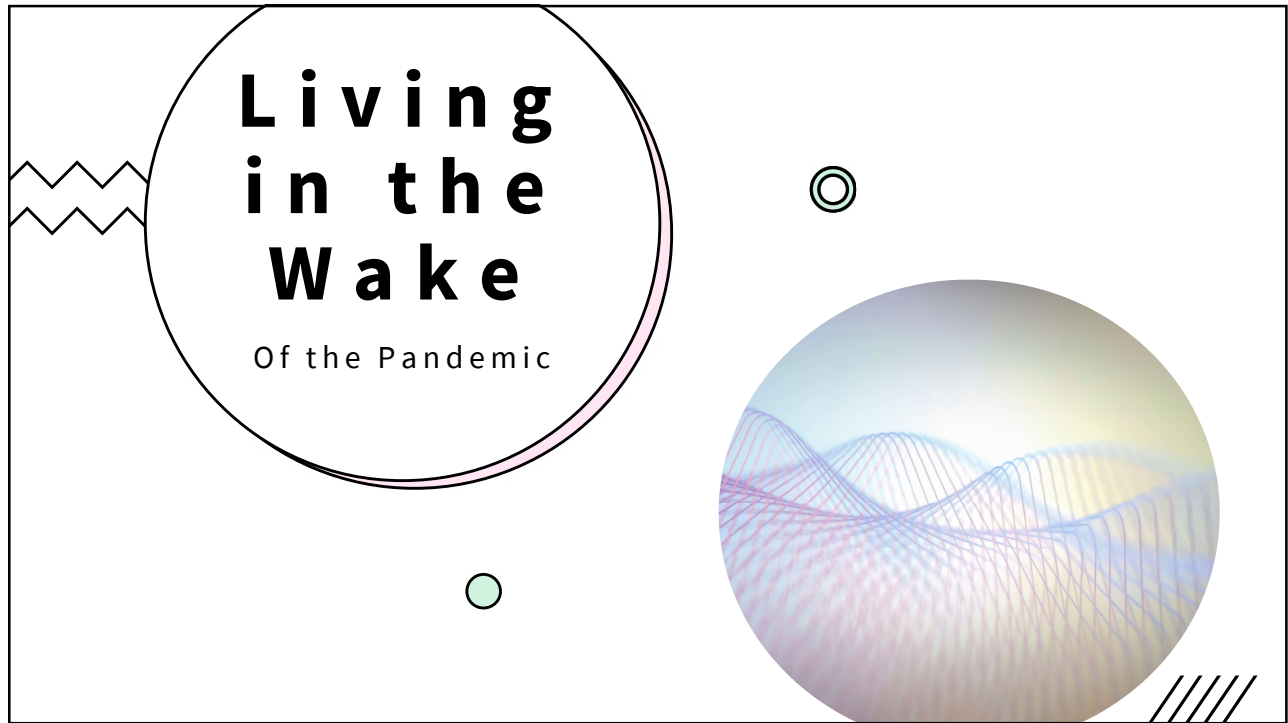


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4



5

Challenges of this new Season

Adaptive Challenges

“Adaptive challenges refer to situations where there are no known solutions to the problem or cases where there are too many solutions but no clear choices. Adaptive challenges are by nature, adaptive, which means they are fluid and change with circumstances. Adaptive challenges are volatile, unpredictable, complex and ambiguous in nature. Solutions to this type of challenge usually require people to learn new ways of doing things, change their attitudes, values and norms and adopt an experimental mindset.”

Technical Challenges

Technical Challenges are problems are easily defined, solutions are solved by the knowledge of expert and existing resources, and the implementation of the solution is clear.

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6

Moving forward is not linear

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7

Book of Order
Responsibilities of the Session

#1
Responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world

#2
The Session shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302) & F-1.0303 and the Six Great Ends of the church (F - 1.0304)

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8


Book of Order Responsibilities of the Session

Provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard

- o Providing a place for worship where the congregation may regularly gather for worship, education and spiritual nurture
- o Provide for regular preaching by a minister of the Word and Sacrament
- o Planning and leading regular efforts to reach into the community and the world
- o Planning and leading ministries of social healing and reconciliation
- o Initiating and responding to ecumenical efforts

Provide that Sacraments may be rightly administered and received

- o Authorizing celebration of Lord's supper and Baptism
- o Exercising pastoral care



Nurture the Covenant community of disciples of Christ

- o Receiving and dismissing members
- o Reviewing the roll of active members
- o Providing programs of nurture, education, and fellowship
- o Training, examining, ordaining and installing those elected by the congregation
- o Encouraging generosity and faithful stewardship
- o Managing the physical property of the congregation for the furtherance of its mission
- o Directing the ministry of deacons, trustees and ALL organizations of the congregation
- o Employing the administrative staff of the congregation
- o Leading the congregation in participating in the mission of the whole church
- o Warning and bearing witness against error in doctrine and immorality practice within congregation and community
- o Serve in judicial matters


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9

Where do we start?

WHAT'S technical?

WHAT'S adaptive?



Not linear?

10



Start with the foundation

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11



Session Meetings


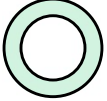
- Go with what works for you
 - In Person
 - Online
 - Hybrid




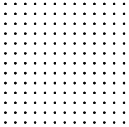
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Session Agenda





- Devotion focused on Dwelling in the Word or a book or series of scripture.
- Training about being a church leader in the new environment
- Agreement on how to discuss or “debate”
- Consent Agenda for regular items of business
- Publish all meeting material ahead of time and easily accessible
- Committee/Team reports need to be in writing
- Time for group/community building
- Time for discussion on vision and vocation

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13



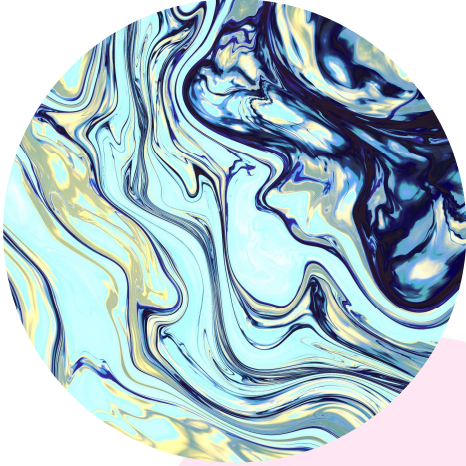

Session Size

“We can’t find enough people to serve”

Adjust your number of elders to meet the size of your congregation

Adjust your Bylaws to allow for non-session members to have leadership roles.

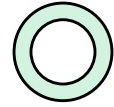
Spread the leadership around

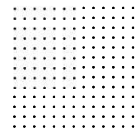
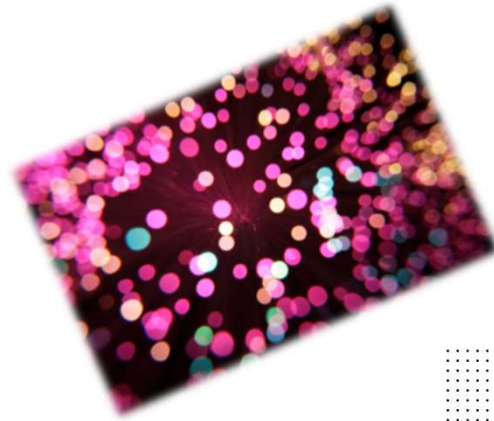
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Session and Committees



- Do you have too many committees?
- Focus on what you are doing now
- Do more “task group” or “short term team” work
- Let go of those committees that don’t meet your vision and vocation



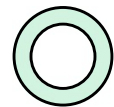
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POST PANDEMIC SESSION STRUCTURE

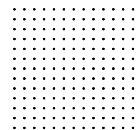
15

15

What did we Learn?



- Experiment with new structure ideas
 - Set a time limit to the experiment
 - Review the experiment
 - What did we learn?
 - What are we going to keep, let go, try again, practice

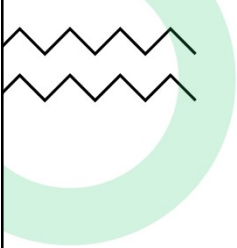


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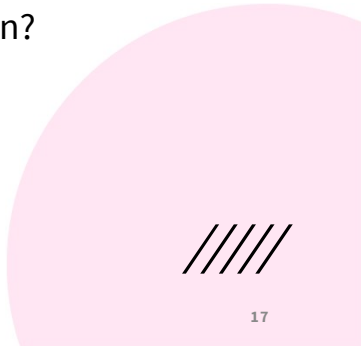
16

16



Manual of Operations

Required by the Book of Order
The home for all policies and procedures
What goes in the Manual of Operation?
(that's another workshop)



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GOT QUESTIONS?
ADD THEM TO THE CHAT

What would you like to see for a future workshop to assist sessions or deacons?

SHARE YOUR POST PANDEMIC IDEAS

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