



OPTIMIZING CHECK-IN

Current vaccination percentage of the total population as per the CDC:

St. Lucie	35.2%	Palm Beach	42.6%	Miami-Dade	46.8%
Martin	44.5%	Broward	41.8%	Monroe	50.0%

Vaccination rates for older populations are higher than the total population.

- ***How can your congregation continue to encourage vaccinations?***
- ***How are you maintaining safety for those whom the vaccine is not authorized or that are unable to take it?***
- ***Are you making special provisions in your children's ministry?***

COMMENTS:

- Speaking to a maternity nurse, she stated that there are many delivering moms with Covid-19. Younger people are coming in very sick as well.
- People feel like they are being picked on for not being vaccinated, and I don't know how to address this.
- 10% of those infected by the new Delta variant are the youth and children.
- We physically post the CDC diagram all over our campus.
- We are encouraging everyone to wear the mask unless presenting. I'm modeling it in the best way I can.
- We moved our childcare to a larger space and all workers are required to wear a mask. We have had real good success with mask wearing in our pre-school and elementary school.
- I don't receive mask shaming for those who are not vaccinated. But I will encourage mask wearing to care for those who are not vaccinated.
- I wear a mask to protect others.

- We have a social distancing section in the back of the church. All children are masked.
- 100% of those in the hospital with Covid, are the ones who have not been vaccinated.
- There are facilities that are on lock down, because people have shown up as infected.
- We have to pay attention to the Delta variant.
- I'm concerned for the future effects of the infection: diabetes I, etc.

ENTREPRENEURIAL PASTORS/LEADERS

7 Ways a Pastor Should Think Like an Entrepreneur

By Brandon A. Cox [\[LINK\]](#)

- Cox focuses his writing on Pastors but in our tradition the expectations of leadership fall to the whole church.
- Cox says: *"I love entrepreneurial leaders. They think a little differently than everyone else. And I believe they have a special place in ministry leadership.*
- Cox makes these basic assumptions:
 - ***Some things should never change.*** Truth. The Gospel. The content. The message. The role, generally speaking, of the pastor, which is to *shepherd* the flock of God. These things don't change.
 - ***Some things are always changing.*** Culture. Language. Technology. Politics. Felt needs. These things change with every new generation, with every major cultural moment, and with every new location where we take the gospel.
 - ***Entrepreneurial pastors navigate change well.*** Entrepreneurs see a new opportunity and plunge into it, taking big risks, walking with big faith, and often seeing fresh fruit.

1. Entrepreneurs question the status quo.

Pastors, you can coast along to retirement by preaching pretty good sermons and visiting the sick. Or, you can question whether that's all you're up to and go for more.

- How good are you at questioning the status quo?
- How might the post-Covid experience help or hinder the movement away from status quo?
- What is one instance of the status quo you need to be questioning right now?

COMMENTS:

- Status Quo has proven that it is not working. It's a simple thing, "If you are not hitting the ball you need to do something differently."
- I have been 25 years questioning the status quo...be prepared to be questioned back by the status quo as it does not like to be questioned—that is not an easy ride.

- Now, worship can happen outside the church building. Ministry can still happen with closed doors.
- Covid itself has questioned the status quo. “Is this what the new in-person church will look like? I believe there is no status quo anymore and we are on an unknown journey where we are trying to find our way as we go.”
- The pandemic is the catalyst in challenging the status quo. It has ushered us into a new frontier.
- People of the status quo are waiting things out.
- Finate vs infinite – hits at the status quo.
- Keeping our eye on the grandness of the Gospel, allows us to challenge the status quo (church preservation).
- Covid made us address all the church programing: gatherings, communion, etc. It’s provided us freedom to consider other ways.
- We have the opportunity to say “yes,” after an existence of hearing “no.”

2. *Entrepreneurs ignore the naysayers.*

Obviously, pastors need advisors and accountability, but we also need to be able to reject and ignore discouraging advice from those who don’t necessarily know what God has put on our hearts. (We would say what God is calling the church to be.)

- **How do you know the difference between a naysayer or a valid voice in discernment?**
- **What is your approach to those who seem like naysayers?**
- **How do you attend to naysayers fairly without being dismissive?**

COMMENTS:

- This is a hard one – I’ve been thinking about it with Tempered Resilience and the importance of loving people. How do you honestly listen to someone when inside yourself you are saying ‘here goes a naysayer again?’ I think it’s about how regular/often you hear from that person.
- When I have a naysayer come to me, I try and listen to where they are coming from—what is behind the question/issue is what I try and discover. Pay attention to the emotion behind it.
- People are looking to the pastor for vision. In the anxiety, they default to “What are we paying you for?”
- Understand the family. Who are the patriarchs and matriarchs? What is the story? What are the values that are held deeply?
- I respect your opinion. I don’t respect the way that you’re saying it.
- We are trying to create the safe space places.

3. *Entrepreneurs fix broken things no one else has yet fixed.*

And we need pastors who will lovingly and confidently determine to fix, or better, to heal broken churches.

- Is your leadership actively seeking to “fix what is broken” in your church?
- What is broken in your church that needs some determined and intentional attention to fix?
- Does your leadership pay enough attention to fixing more than just the broken system or facilities? How do you actively seek to work with the Holy Spirit to help fix broken lives?

COMMENTS:

- The Lord has sent us children with learning disabilities and other issues, and we have not been able to do our programs for children during Covid. We have not been able to help these families during this time. We want to help these families and take care of children.
- When a couple gets divorced, they both leave the church. There is a sense that neither one of them has a place. Often leaders in the church don’t think it’s their problem if there is brokenness in the church. They see that as the pastor’s problem. Fixing it is weighted towards the pastor.
- It should be more than the pastor who is doing the work of “fixing”—the leadership as a whole needs to do this, and we need to invite the Holy Spirit into it.
- The pastor is usually broken too.
- We have to be whole and strive for wholeness. We need to explore each other’s spiritual gifts to discover how we might be useful in the Body of Christ.
- This is about bringing good process to things in order to help the congregation shift.
- We should help people explore their spiritual giftedness.
- Instead of “fixing,” we should use “name or unmask,” so that others engage the issue.
- I like to use the word “reframing.” Reframing Organizations – Bolman and Deal
- Repurpose.
- Change the question so that you can get better answers.

4. *Entrepreneurs take big risks in faith.*

... in church leadership, our faith in God grows when we follow God’s lead, take a risk, and watch God show up and go to work!

- What is your personal tolerance for risk taking? Does that question change if we ask about, “risk taking in faith?”
- Prior to the pandemic what was the biggest risk you and/or your church took in faith? How has your tolerance changed?
- How does your congregation weigh risk?

COMMENTS:

- How does our congregation weigh risk? We don't. We need to be shaken out of our situation because we want to hold fast to the things we have fallen in love with (that aren't God, but things like a building, music style, etc.).
- There are medium risk people and there are no risk people. It depends on who you are working with. Concrete sequential vs. random abstract. It's a spectrum and we can all swing towards being open.
- I don't have a problem with risk, if I feel that I'm in tune with the Holy Spirit.
- Time for marination is crucial when experimenting with different methods (for gradual buy in).
- I go for the calculated risks based on assessments and story of the church.
- There's a difference between taking a risk and being risky.

5. Entrepreneurs adapt quickly to unforeseen challenges

Things go wrong. And how we react when things go wrong makes all the difference. Entrepreneurs adjust and bounce back. They make course corrections, learn from mistakes, and fail forward.

- What has this past year taught you about your personal ability to adapt? How about your church?
- Did you learn any personal or leadership skills that may help you be more able to adapt in the future?

COMMENTS:

- Prior to Covid I would have never thought I could preach to an empty room. Taking the Word online has changed lives, and I've had to adapt to believe that ministry can happen when people are not directly in front of me.
- It has been a fight or flight mentality during Covid, and now we have to be intentional about adaptability.
- "What will you have me do?" That is the question I hold as an intention before God.
- How do we adapt in such a way that we bring people along in a positive way?
- Listen to find the validity of the naysayer's meaning.
- Agility responds with fluidity while going forward.

6. Entrepreneurs work hard. Really hard!

The fact is, it takes thousands and thousands of hours of doing something to become truly proficient at it. Entrepreneurs might work for themselves, but that often means they work for a workaholic boss and should probably calm down and rest more.

Pastoral ministry is hard work! It ought to be hard work. To “rightly divide the word of truth” takes time pouring over its pages. To lead a healthy staff and leadership team takes lots of time spent one-on-one with leaders. When the leader works hard at growing personally, the church benefits.

- How do you manage the time you spend on the pastoral, personal, organizational and other aspects of your vocation and life?
- Are you working really hard on the right stuff?

COMMENTS:

- During Covid, more time was spent in learning technology. But the continued work of empowering people in their giftedness, has paid off.
- It has been easy during Covid to drift away from working at the “right stuff.” I’m focusing on helping people and the church discern their mission.
- Its easy to look at this and say that I’m not working hard at the right stuff, and maybe that is part of the exhaustion.
- Stick to the vision.
- Watch the pace—maybe don’t pedal so fast.

7. Entrepreneurs change the game.

And pastors... you are the world’s most over-looked change agents! You think we can count on politicians to take down the world’s giant problems? No, *pastors* who preach and re-preach the gospel faithfully and who find new ways of communicating it to each new generation truly change the world like no other leader could.

- How are change agents actually game changers?
- Do you see yourself as a game changer?
- What might you do to become more cooperative with the Holy Spirit as a game changer in the world?

COMMENTS:

- You need to believe you are a change agent.
- Preach and re-preach the gospel faithfully – my energy and life are focused there. What you say, what you do, what you don’t do are all part of that.
- Change does not happen with a lecture or a sermon. We need to be constant and consistent in our call to be disciples.
- Elisha received the double portion. Do something with what has been given to you. “The richest place is the graveyard, because unused gifts were taken with them.”
- Iconoclast – does it still work? If not, move on.
- The church takes it’s cue from God, who creates, changes, and evolves.

ALONG THE WAY...

1. Breathe deep.
2. Keep moving – walk, run, dance!
3. Vegetables!
4. Ask: Where do I see God in all this?

**Let's all keep talking –
Every Tuesday
Conversations at 10am and 3pm**
www.vibrantpresbytery.org

