



RESET   
RESTART  
RENEW

# best practices for resuming in-person worship

## Conducting a Congregational Survey

Responsibly returning to in-person worship amid an ongoing pandemic requires thoughtful preparation, intentional planning, and the careful implementation of recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Checking the pulse of your local congregation is a vital part of a successful planning process. Often, pastors and church leaders will hear from their most vocal members, but we shouldn't assume that they always represent all perspectives within a congregation.

A first step in accurately gauging your constituency and gleaning the information you need to create your timeline for reopening is conducting a congregational survey. In addition to the helpful data you will collect, a congregational survey:

- Communicates that every voice in your congregation is valued.
- Allows people to **weigh in**, which helps them to **buy in** when plans are unveiled.
- Conveys that thoughtful, intentional planning is taking place.

The sample questions below can be a starting point for your church, but there is no one-size-fits-all survey. Yours should be adapted to capture information pertinent to your local context.

### Administering Your Survey

Conducting a survey does not have to be a laborious process. Several tools exist to make gathering congregational data easier. Here are three options:

- [Survey Monkey](#) – Paid service that might make sense for larger churches. Using the sample questions as a starting point, create your survey using [these helpful tutorials](#).
- [Google Forms](#) – Free and simple way to create a survey and share it with your congregation. As soon as the results start coming in, you can review them in Google Forms or export them into a spreadsheet and analyze them however you desire. The creator/administrator of the survey will need a Gmail account.

Here is an [example of how such a congregational survey](#) could look on Google Forms. When you click on this link, you will be prompted to make a copy of the survey. Once you do that, you can modify it and use it as your own survey.

If you prefer to start from scratch, here are links to step-by-step instructions for creating a survey on [your computer](#), on [your iPhone or iPad](#), or on [your Android device](#).

- **Offline Survey** – Using the sample questions below as a starting point, create, print and distribute your survey in a way that maintains social distancing in the distribution and collection. In smaller settings, it might be preferable to conduct your survey by phone, with one or more administrators printing and completing the survey based on the answers provided by each person reached by phone.

## Sample Congregational Survey

Our church leadership is prayerfully and thoughtfully exploring how our congregation can begin to gather again safely. Most importantly, we seek God's guidance in these decisions. We also pay close attention to the dictates and advice of our government officials and health experts. We want to hear from you as another important source of input. Please take this 5-minute survey.

1) Your age

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

2) Are you in one of the groups that the CDC and health experts have identified as higher risk for serious health issues or death from COVID-19 (those 65 and older and those with [underlying health conditions](#))?

Yes

No

3) Have you participated in one of our online worship services in the past several weeks?

Yes

No

4) If you have participated in one of our online worship services, did you experience worship and God's presence more or less online compared to in-person worship?

More

About the same

Less

5) When in-person worship is offered, following CDC recommendations and guidelines (masks, social distancing, etc.), I would feel comfortable attending:

Right away

In about 1 to 2 weeks

In a month or more

I plan to continue worshipping at home for now.

When there are no COVID-19 restrictions.

6) If we were to begin offering in-person worship soon, would you be comfortable bringing a relative or close friend who is in one of the higher-risk groups?

Yes

Depends on the safety precautions that are in place.

No

7) If we were to begin offering in-person worship soon, would you be comfortable bringing a child or grandchild?

Yes

Depends on the safety precautions that are in place

No

8) What safety precautions would make you feel comfortable attending a worship service in person? (check all that apply)

Masks

Social distancing (6 feet per family)

Hand sanitizer stations

Temperature checks

Limited in-person gatherings

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

9) Do you currently serve in Guest Services (parking team, coffee crew, usher, greeter, visitors desk)?

Yes

No

10) If you answered "yes" to Question 9, would you be comfortable continuing to serve once we resume in-person worship?

Yes

No

11) Should capacity in our sanctuary become a problem as we practice social distancing, would you consider attending in-person worship with the service live-streamed to an additional location (other than the sanctuary) on our campus?

Yes

No

12) As a measure to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, would you consider attending in-person worship if there is no congregational singing during the worship service?

Yes

No

13) Have you participated in an online small group or Bible study class in the past several weeks?

Yes

No

14) Do you have children who attend children's programming or nursery?

Yes

No

15) If you answered "yes" to Question 14, would you and your family attend in-person worship on our campus if our nursery and children's programming were not provided?

Yes

No

16) Which of the following activities are you either currently doing or currently willing to do? (check all that apply)

Going to work

Going to the grocery store

Getting take-out or delivered food from a restaurant

Eating out in a restaurant

Working out at a gym

Getting a haircut

Going to a store to shop for non-essential items