

MCEC Pastoral Conversations

Notes from online meeting Good Friday and Easter resources for MCEC leaders Wednesday April 1, 2020 from 2-3 pm on Zoom

Cathrin van Sintern-Dick, MCEC Regional Ministry Associate opened the meeting by reading an Affirmation of Faith. She identified the link to the [AMBS webinar](#) on planning for Good Friday and Easter on Tuesday March 31. See the AMBS website to watch the webinar and for further resources.

Communion Discussion

How do we do communion without being together in person?

Congregations shared:

- Planning for communion via Zoom and will have four break out rooms for the elders to lead communion in each of their break out rooms
- Will use live streaming. They will record the different parts of the service and then upload the separate segments. People to have bread and wine in their own homes.
- Lamented against the barricade of not being in person for these important services - will use the story "Pail of Nails" as the framework for their service.
- Will send out a recipe for bread to each home - that way each home can use the same kind of bread to share during communion.
- Make space for long silences.
- Use scripture readings.
- Include the children?
Is it for baptized only? Or for all? Different congregations have different practices. One congregation encourages families to have grapes and pretzels available for the children.
- No need to leave home to get the elements. We can use water. Keep it simple. No one should put themselves at risk to get grape juice or grapes.
- Is there a service being offered for others? The answer is YES. MC Alberta is preparing a Good Friday and an Easter service. Details to follow.
- Providing a service for all at home - everyone can lead their own service at home.
- Perhaps we can include a prayer as part of communion for all who are not there and to acknowledge that we are part of a larger community.
- How do we share communion with those in nursing homes and who do not have technology?
- Send a beautiful Easter card. That is something that can be enjoyed for more than a day. Any long term care staff are great at helping residents to look at something like a card and connecting them more than once to their congregation.
- How do we set a worshipful tone? How do we help people transition into a worshipful mode? How do we do music? Singing? - consider the use of Youtube selections

- How do we do footwashing/handwashing? See the service included in the Show Us – Lent at home 2020 Worship Guide from Mennonite Church USA. See Anabaptist Faith Formation website and also on Commonword.ca.
- One congregation is working on a Forest Church type outdoor meditation for people to use on their own for quiet contemplation outdoors.

Break Out Rooms - What we are doing and planning

Small group reports:

- When using Zoom or other technology be clear on the expectations of how to use technology well in a group meeting. Be clear about a host and co-host. Have a plan for when something goes wrong. Encourage people to invite friends.
- See the AMBS notes about Zoom meetings.
- Note: the use of visuals and bringing them and gestures into the screen for all to see is very important in online meetings. Lift the bread up so that all can see the bread in the screen. Stretch out your hands to share the bread. Others to lift up their hands to receive the bread.
- Lots of experimentation.
- Live streaming.
- Using Zoom meeting for prayer and sharing.
- A spirit of grace and a willingness to explore and we are excited by it - no right way to do it

EASTER CELEBRATIONS!

- On the first Easter it took a while to sink in that this was really something to celebrate. This year we are really feeling the “not yet Easter” part of the story more than the “already”! We are missing the traditions of Easter.
- Concentrating on Holy Saturday - the waiting period. Also paying attention to the stories of how people who were on their “Own” when they met Jesus. What does that mean for us who are on our OWN when we meet Jesus this Easter?
- On the first Easter people thought it was idle tales and there was great confusion. It is similar now. How to we help people to take stock? How do we tell the story?

BREAK OUT ROOMS – feedback

- Develop a playlist.
- Watch another church’s service.
- Using Zoom with children – make palms at home. Take pictures. Send them to one person. Make a slide show. Show it when everyone is together.
- Use simple songs to engage the children.
- Include the children. Families are at home with their children. Pastors and other leaders are leading from home with their children who aren’t quiet.

- Share resources on changing home into a worship space.
- Use Zoom meeting to set up a time with friends to turn on the meeting and eat and visit together. Have meals online.

Websites:

- Commonword.ca - check for the Show Us – Lent at Home resource
- Freebibleimages.com - For free to use bible images and slide shows that may be helpful in using for a visual scripture reading or children's story during a zoom meeting.
- Zoom meeting – has many webinars and tutorials to help with running effective meetings.