Sample Grid: Discerning New Modes of Ministry

The purpose of this grid is to prompt your own thinking about what modes or forms of ministry are best for your congregation at this time. Please use the blank chart in in the appendix as you seek to discern which mode(s) will help you to be most faithful as the body of Christ.

Please note: The list of modes/platforms, advantages, and disadvantages found below is offered for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be definitive or exhaustive. Your experiences will differ.

Modes of	Pros/Advantages	Cons/Disadvantages
Ministry		
Prerecorded	Production quality, organization	Less responsive, participatory
video (e.g.	Convenience for worshipers	Labor-intensive for church staff
YouTube)		
Social media	Real-time connection	Requires membership/account
(e.g. Facebook Live)	Openness to other participants	Invites competition, comparison
Virtual meetings	Allows for interactive participation	Less accessible to outsiders
(e.g. Zoom)	Participants can see one another	Meeting fatigue (feels like work)
Drive-in	Physical presence in the same place	Emphasizes individuals, families
gatherings	In-person sacramental celebration	Economic and ecological concerns
Outdoor	Evangelism/witness to community	Contingent on good weather
worship	Celebrating God's creation	Mobility issues for some worshipers
Telephone	Available to most worshipers	Missing visual engagement
ministry (e.g.	Low tech accessibility	Lack of embodied participation
conference call)		
Mailed materials	Uses tangible, material gifts	Assumes higher level of literacy
or packets to	Conducive to longer-form reading	Lack of connection with others
pick up		
Small group/cell	Intimacy, personal connection	May encourage social cliques
gatherings (e.g.	Limits the risk of contagion	Harder to foster diversity
house church)		
Hybrids (e.g. in-	Expansive sense of community	May lead to division, separation
person with	Appeals to multiple intelligences	More labor intensive for staff
video stream)		

Appendix: Discerning New Modes of Ministry

The purpose of this grid is to prompt theological and practical reflection about what modes or forms of ministry are best for your congregation at this time. Please use the blank chart below as you seek to discern which mode(s) will help you to be most faithful as the body of Christ.

Modes of Ministry	Pros/Advantages	Cons/Disadvantages