

May 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

The pastoral staff and Board recently read two articles as a springboard for discussion about Sunnyside's present situation and future. The second article, titled [Strategies for Winter: Redemptive Leadership in Survival Times](#) (April 23), begins by summarizing the points from an earlier article (March 20) which you may review [here](#). The first summary point is this: "We need to treat COVID-19 as an economic and cultural blizzard, winter, and the beginning of a "little ice age" – a once-in-a-lifetime change that is likely to affect our lives and organizations for years."

In my report to the Board, I referenced both articles:

"At the time of writing we are coming up to 60 days since our first hard pivot in response to Covid-19. As per an article I circulated to you and to the staff this week we responded at first as though we were in a Blizzard, going into crisis mode. But this is a marathon, not a sprint. And, as the same article (by Praxis Labs) suggests, we are now learning how to survive through a Long Winter but will have to do even more than that. We must find new ways to adapt and build since it turns out Covid-19 changes some of our landscape forever in the same way a mini-Ice Age does.

This is a time for entrepreneurial leadership. I find Praxis' tagline moving: Advancing Redemptive Entrepreneurship. There are kingdom ways to be entrepreneurial; look to Creator God, or to the third person of the Trinity - the Holy Spirit - for examples. We are in [God's] good hands and these are interesting times. I am privileged and pressured as the lead pastor at Sunnyside.

Having manoeuvred the Blizzard, now leading through a Long Winter, I have actively begun to have the conversations about adapting and building that will be necessary to our future existence and development as a church."

Celebrating and Dreaming

I asked the pastoral staff and the Board the following questions. Now I ask you to reflect on our church's situation. Will you please respond to me directly with your responses if so inclined?

- Considering the articles above, what have we done well so far?
- What do we think will be different in our future? What do we know will be different in our future?
- What might we leave behind?
- What must we bring with us?

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

One thing we want to bring with us into our future is a growing ability to articulate the reason for our hope.

Rick Hiemstra will preach this Sunday on 1 Peter 3:13-23. Verse 15 is central: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

For Zoom link's to Sunday's service, please [contact me](#).

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

Next Tuesday Prayer Gathering: June 2

We will take a break from the Tuesday Zoom prayer gatherings until June 2. You may still submit prayer requests to prayer@sunnysidechurch.ca for circulation to the pastoral staff and prayer team.

Restoring Hope

Last Sunday, we heard from Laura about how to support [Restoring Hope](#) in their ongoing ministry to street-engaged youth. Please contact the [church office](#) to find out how to give necessary supplies and food to support this good work.

Creativity

As we continue to think and plan toward the future this may be a good time to supply yourself with washable masks, if you haven't already. Our church will remain in line with provincial standards as we make our way forward.

I appreciate the creative work being done by one of our Sunnysiders to supply PPE to health care workers. She sews gowns, masks and headbands in response to the needs described on the [Respond Ottawa website](#). She also [outfitted me with a headband](#) for this week's nursing shifts. It's not just any old headband. It has big buttons sewn on it behind the ears. That way I can hook my mask around the buttons which gives the skin behind my ears a break during an 8-hour shift. Many are wearing these in our local hospitals with thanks!

"Give us this day our daily bread" is a meaningful part of the Lord's prayer for me these days. I come to the Lord with my need today. I live *this moment* in the Lord with no clear view of the future, giving thanks for his present provisions. I pray for you, that you may experience God's goodness this day.

Keep in touch.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)