

Re-engaging Adults



1. **Exploring Soldiership.** Offer the new Exploring Soldiership course over Zoom or in person. This can be done one-to-one or with a small group.
2. **Church in a box.** Provide a weekly 'take-away' box of resources for those who are unable to connect online or in person. Post them out or engage church attendees to help deliver. Here are some suggested items to include:
 - Transcript or summary of sermon
 - Scripture reading
 - Offering envelope
 - Small gift (candle, bookmark)
 - Kids time activity
 - Prayers and prayer list
 - Devotional materials
 - Personal note of encouragement
3. **SOAP Journaling.** Encourage your congregation to take up SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) journaling. Create a space for people to share their reflections – online or during your Sunday meetings. You may like to focus your weekly sermon on the same readings the congregation has been journaling.
4. **Community Day.** Hold a BBQ or picnic for your congregation and community. Plan intergenerational games that reinforce connection and fun. Alternatively, hold an 'all-day breakfast' at your building, where people book in a slot. This would provide connection and community, face to face in a safe environment.
5. **Online Conferences.** Promote online Christian conferences. Choose a couple to promote. Try to get a group from the corps to 'attend' so that you can discuss and apply together.
6. **Congregation for young parents.** Start a congregation for parents with young children. Adults can meet around a table while children spend time in a designated play/learn area, supervised by a children's ministry worker.
7. **Yarning circles.** Form yarning circles or communities of practice with adults of varied ages and cultural backgrounds. Meet in a coffee shop, community space or home. Find a relevant shared interest, e.g. coping with empty nest, parenting grandkids or dealing with loss or suicide. Use the shared interest as a starting place for conversation and connection.
8. **Develop your pastoral network.** During the Covid-19 crisis, some corps divided their congregation into pastoral care teams. This is a great time to build on that foundation. Leaders of each pastoral group could invite group members to meet for coffee and sharing. Home groups could develop out of this.
9. **Continue your online presence.** Let's not abandon our online presence but look for ways to keep this great form of ministry going.

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Tips for ministering to adults

- 1. Start by listening.** Contact community and congregation members to find out they want at this time. Begin with where they are at rather than where you want them to be. Ask, 'How would you like to engage moving forward?' Let their feedback guide the design of activities.
- 2. Don't hurry back to 'normal church'.** COVID-19 has taken the church out of the buildings. We've seen small groups meeting over Zoom, congregation members pastoring each other with phone chains and groups meeting for church in homes. What parts of this is God calling us to hold on to?
- 3. Communicate your safety measures.** Safety will be a concern for many, so make sure you communicate the measures that have been put in place to comply with government restrictions and ensure people's safety. Offer extra pastoral care to those who do not feel safe meeting.
- 4. Focus on shared interests, life stages or challenges.** What do many of your people have in common? What activities can you plan with this in mind?
- 5. Ask – 'How will we share the love of Jesus'.** Be creative – activities can be wonderfully varied. But everything we do should be about sharing the love of Jesus. Always be clear on how you will share the love of Jesus in everything you do.
- 6. Always be inclusive.** Ensure that your planning and leadership teams are inclusive of different age and cultural groups and differing abilities. A good guiding statement is "nothing about us without us".