

Key Learnings from the Survey of Pastoral and Congregational Leaders conducted by the *Interpreting the Impact of COVID-19 on Congregations Task Force*

- Things got simpler during the pandemic, and while they were no doubt challenging for local church leaders and pastors, what was truly important rose to the surface.
- Relationships/fellowship was a common theme and a perceived loss throughout the pandemic
- Pastors and church leaders felt unequipped to navigate the challenges of social media and online worship. Seminaries, Bible colleges and regional bodies need to be sensitive to these needs as they consider future training opportunities.
- Pastors became more 'pastoral' in the outworking of their call with administration and program/process taking a backseat.
- Hybrid worship seems to be here to stay, now the question is how do you pastor these blended congregations at a time when many congregations are moving to a bi-vocational/part-time ministry model due to financial pressures.
- The pandemic exacerbated/ magnified the challenges that were already present in local congregations.
- Unfortunately, the responses seem to indicate that many churches and pastoral leaders are resistant to making the deep changes needed to assure a vibrant future.