



## REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

May 6, 2020

United for Ministry in the Days of COVID-19.

The Social Service Agencies  
 and Synods of Region 1.

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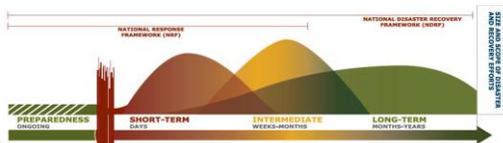
### Going the Distance

Jeremiah 29:4ff **Thus says the LORD of hosts ... to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce ... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you ... For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.**

**L** [eading Beyond the Blizzard: Why Every Organization Is Now a Startup](#) is an article many are finding helpful these days. In this article the authors write:

*“Epidemiologically speaking, we are most likely facing a blizzard today, a winter for the next few months, and a little ice age for years — and it has become crystal clear that we are not dealing just with epidemiology, but with economics and politics as well.”*

Last week the [Hammer and Dance](#) offered a disaster recovery framework to make the same point. There will be no quick “return to normal” after COVID-19. What is



the shifts we need to make? Is now the time to make one?

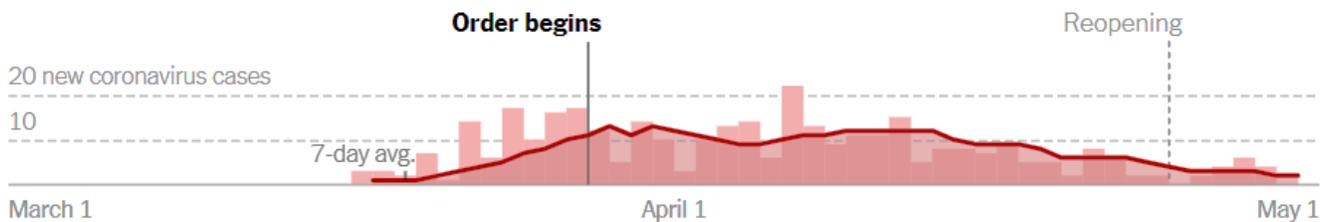
Clearly COVID is not just a blizzard. What kind of shift we need to make is another question - and, we're not just dealing with epidemiology, economics and politics, but with *faith* as well. Jeremiah would have us plant gardens and build homes in this new, COVID, exile. How do we prepare to go the distance?

## Learning the Land – Dancing the Dance

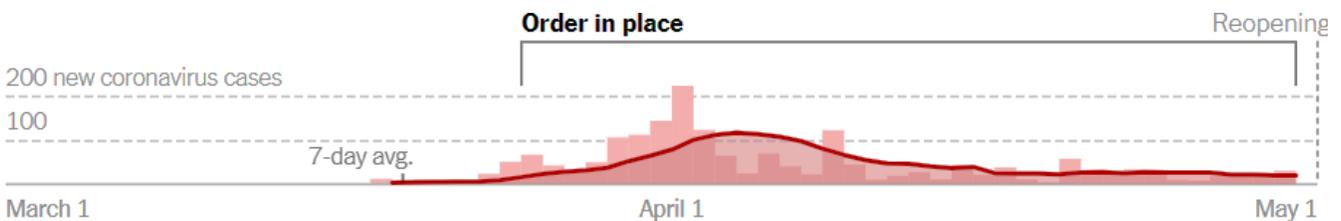
Seeking answers to questions we cannot articulate is the art of adaptive leadership. Adaptive leadership is trying, failing, succeeding, learning and trying again. Before we begin this dance, though, we must choose. We either deny or engage the new COVID Babylon. Are things really different? We must decide.



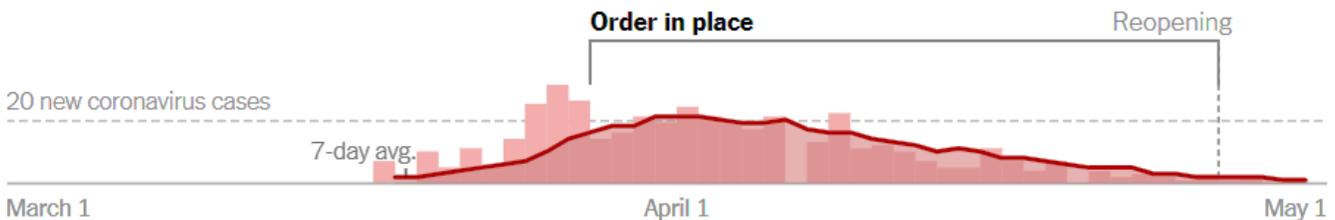
Adaptive leadership means engaging diverse perspectives. Consider the Region 1 diversity we already see. In **Alaska** Gov. Mike Dunleavy eased restrictions on several kinds of businesses starting April 24. This “restart,” which came with certain requirements, was among the first in the nation.



**Idaho** is similar. There Gov. Brad Little has outlined a four-stage plan beginning with daycares and houses of worship which could gather beginning May 1.

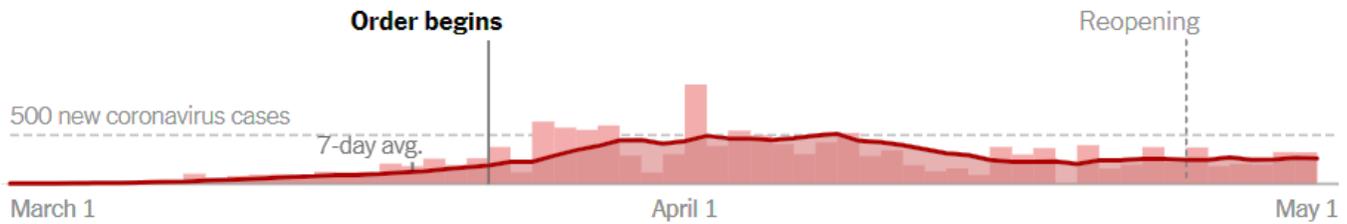


**Montana** has a similar, tapering, infection curve. Gov. Steve Bullock has allowed reopening in phases, beginning with houses of worship on April 26 and retail stores on April 27.

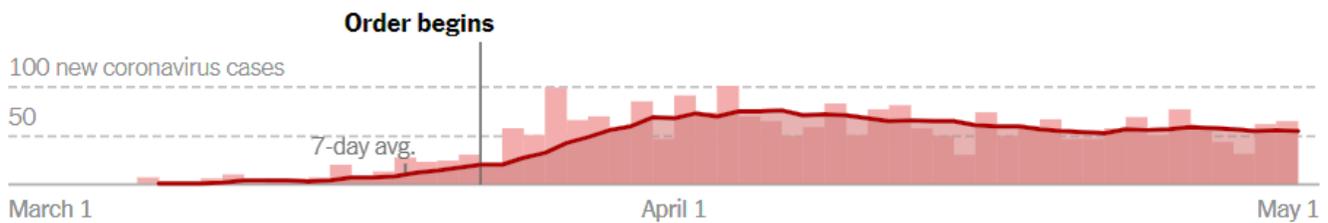


These three states have been relatively lightly impacted by the coronavirus and show strong downward trends in infections. Here, churches may choose to be part of the dance that takes us back to face to face worship. There will be much to learn from these places. It is not yet time, however, to simply assume life is returning to normal. Succeed, fail or deviate we will learn. We are wise to share in the dance and learn together.

Washington and Oregon are following a different path. **Washington's** infection rate has peaked, but continues at a stable pace. Gov. Jay Inslee has extended Washington's stay-at-home order through the end of May, although he said he would allow some local jurisdictions to petition the state for limited openings.



In **Oregon** the infection rate has also plateaued. Gov. Brown is articulating a plan for phased re-entry back to work and worship, but there are no certain dates for easing restrictions. Both Washington and Oregon are adhering closely to CDC recommendations.



Alaska, Idaho and Montana are experimenting with “return.” Washington and Oregon are already dealing with the frustration of a hope too far on a distant horizon. Call it “winter,” “the dance” or our “Intermediate Response.” The point is that we’re on a journey without much of a map.

*Dave Brauer-Rieke*

## Who’s on your Dance Team?

**B**ishops, congregations and Synod/Church Councils have given amazing leadership in the early days of COVID-19. We are finding strength and a new unity through rostered



leader ZOOM meetings, fun events and intensive one to one consultations. And, there is the “usual” work of these leaders still to do. The question is not “either/or,” but “How will we lead through the new with traditional duties still pressing?”

It is time in our COVID created Babylon to bring more voices to the table. ‘COVID Core Teams’ may fill this need.

## Why COVID Core Teams?

We are moving from our “Short-Term Response” to intermediate & long term questions. Said differently, we need scouts to walk this ‘COVID Babylon’ where we must now build and plant.

- [Adaptive leadership](#) is called for in such situations and this requires a diversity of voices.
- Bishops, congregations and council leaders have other work to do. We all need to be in this conversation, but we alone cannot do it all.
- Church members and ministry leaders want to be involved, not standing on the sidelines. It is good to honor their gifts and passions.



## Who would we Invite?

Who we invite depends on what we wish to consider.

- A nurse, doctor or epidemiologist can help us interpret public health concerns. That’s important.
- A business person, preferably one with responsibility for others, could help us understand economic pressures and opportunities.

- A therapist, spiritual director or psychologist could speak to concerns of isolation and despair.
- Worship leaders, teachers, youth ministers and grant writers would all have much to offer.

Would congregations or clusters benefit from their own local teams? Could a synod team help them in formation? What about a regional team to pull us all together?

## How would we Resource such Teams?

Our Region 1 Disaster Preparedness and Response Consultant is called for just this work.

- The [LDR Congregational Disaster Preparedness Guide](#) has much information we can adapt.
- LCSNW and LSS of Alaska stand ready to partner in such an effort.
- Our [Region 1 Virtual Library](#) is ready for content, reports and coordination.

- Other tools to aid cooperation and coordination are in the works. These would benefit from a “living laboratory” to give them shape.



We have done much to build cooperation and capacity already, but the work is just beginning. The greater our cooperation the greater our progress.

Dave Brauer-Rieke

# Resources

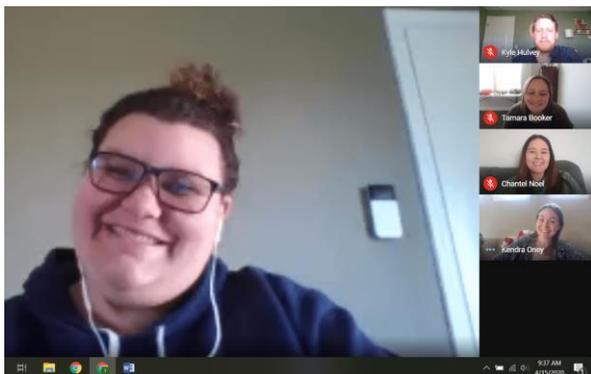


David Duea and Elliot Stockstad of LCSNW recently joined Marguerite at [MovetoTacoma.com](http://MovetoTacoma.com) to discuss how we can support seniors during COVID-19. [Hear their podcast here.](#)



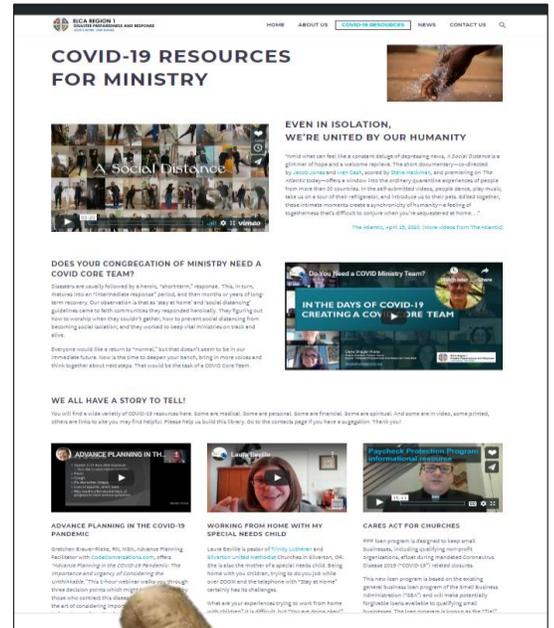
"Our nation may be under a stay at home order to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, but Victoria Huey still has a full workday ahead of her.

Victoria works for Lutheran Community Services Northwest as a care coordinator for the [Wraparound with Intensive Services \(WiSe\) program](#) in Kennewick. Instead of reporting to her Tri-Cities office, making client home visits and attending meetings, she fires up her laptop in her home office.



One of her clients, a child with autism, is an example. When they met face-to-face, Victoria said he didn't communicate much or pay attention. He has become much more engaged since their sessions have moved online. He pays attention from beginning to end and participates in conversations. [More - Going Virtual in the Tri-Cities](#)

www.Region1BePrepared.org



**Jeremiah 31:4ff Thus says the LORD:**  
**“Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: “Come, let us to up to Zion, to the LORD our God.”**