

**CHURCH IN PHASES:
A MAP FOR RE-LAUNCHING WORSHIP AND MINISTRY**



BLYTHEFIELD CRC

Key Sources on Public Health and Governmental Guidelines:

- “Opening Up America Again” - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>
- CDC Guidance for [Community- and Faith-Based Organizations](#)
- [The World Health Organization Religious Communities Overview](#)
- [The World Health Organization Religious Decision Tree](#)

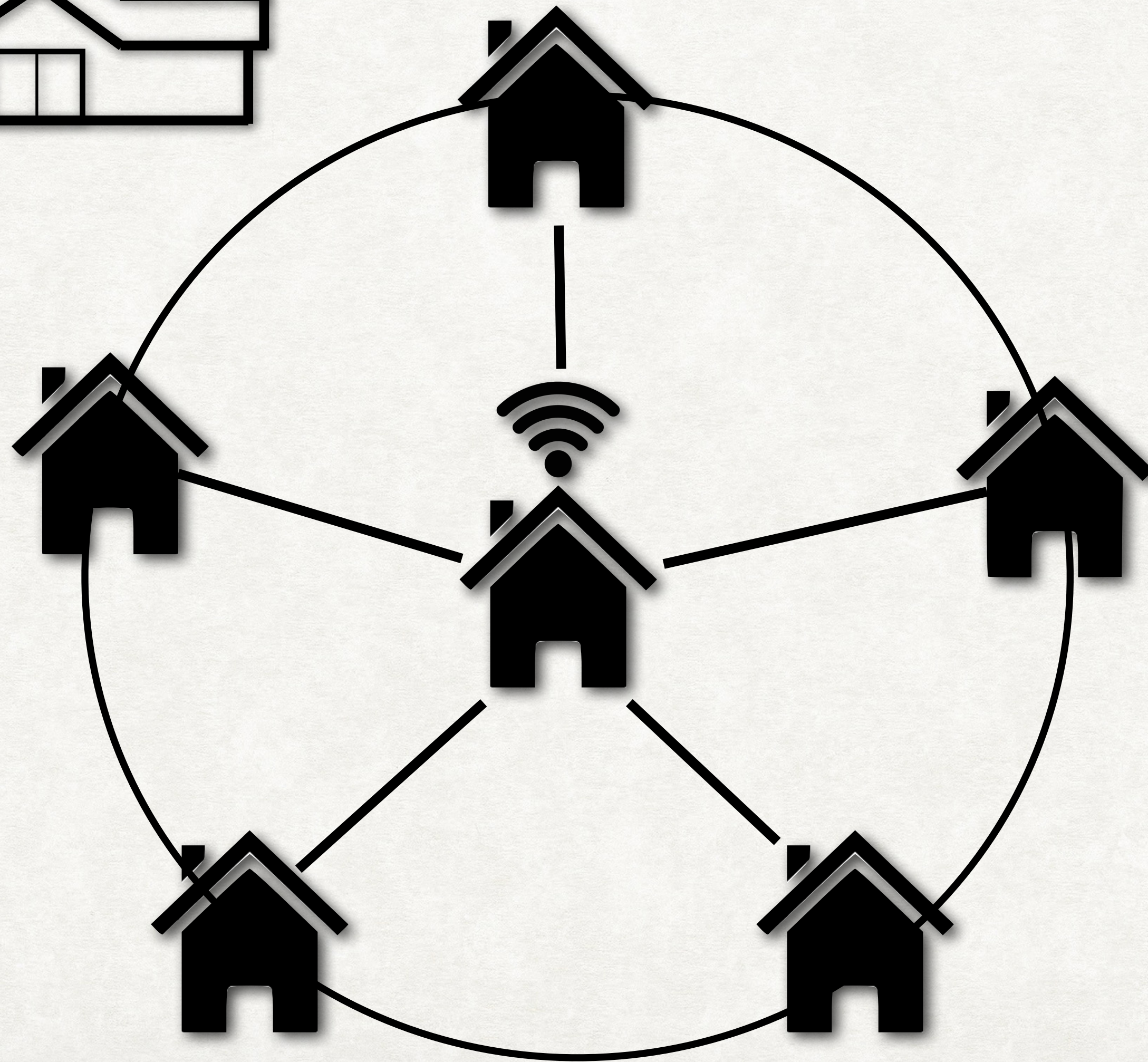
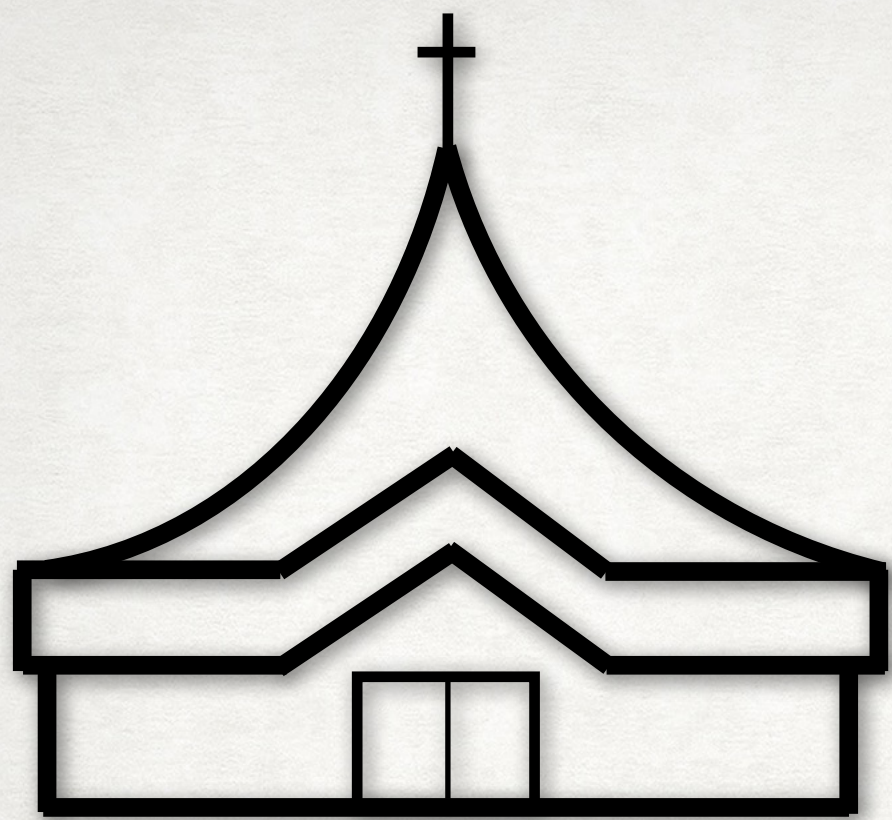
Key Sources on Church and Ministry through Pandemic

- "What Relaunching the Church Might Look Like Over the Next 3-12 Months." Ed Stetzer and Josh Laxton at [ChristianityToday.com](https://www.christianitytoday.com).
- "24 Questions Your Church Should Answer Before People Return." Ken Braddy ([kenbraddy.com](https://www.kenbraddy.com))
- "Shaping Worship During the COVID-19 Pandemic" and "Unavoidable On-line Worship?" by Yvette Lau.
- "Coming Back Together After Coronavirus." Bryan Haley at [churchjuice.com](https://www.churchjuice.com)
- "The Year Without a Summer" by Andy Crouch.

Questions and Priorities for BCRC:

1. Our Mission and Ministry: "Sharing God's love with the people around us and with each other" - Worship, Witness, Discipling, Caring, Stewardship
2. Caring for the Most Vulnerable - discerning with elderly, immune-compromised, frontline medical personnel and their families in mind.
3. Staying connected to the least connected (using a variety of means)
4. Following the best of federal, state, and local health guidelines
5. Thinking beyond Sunday - what about other ministries and gatherings?
6. Developing sanitation and safety practices and procedures
7. Upgrading our livestream capacity for the longer haul
8. What else...?

Quarantine (Phase Zero, Ground Zero) Worshiping at Home, Together



"...a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home." — John 16:32

When? Under "Stay at Home" Orders and with active disease in community or region

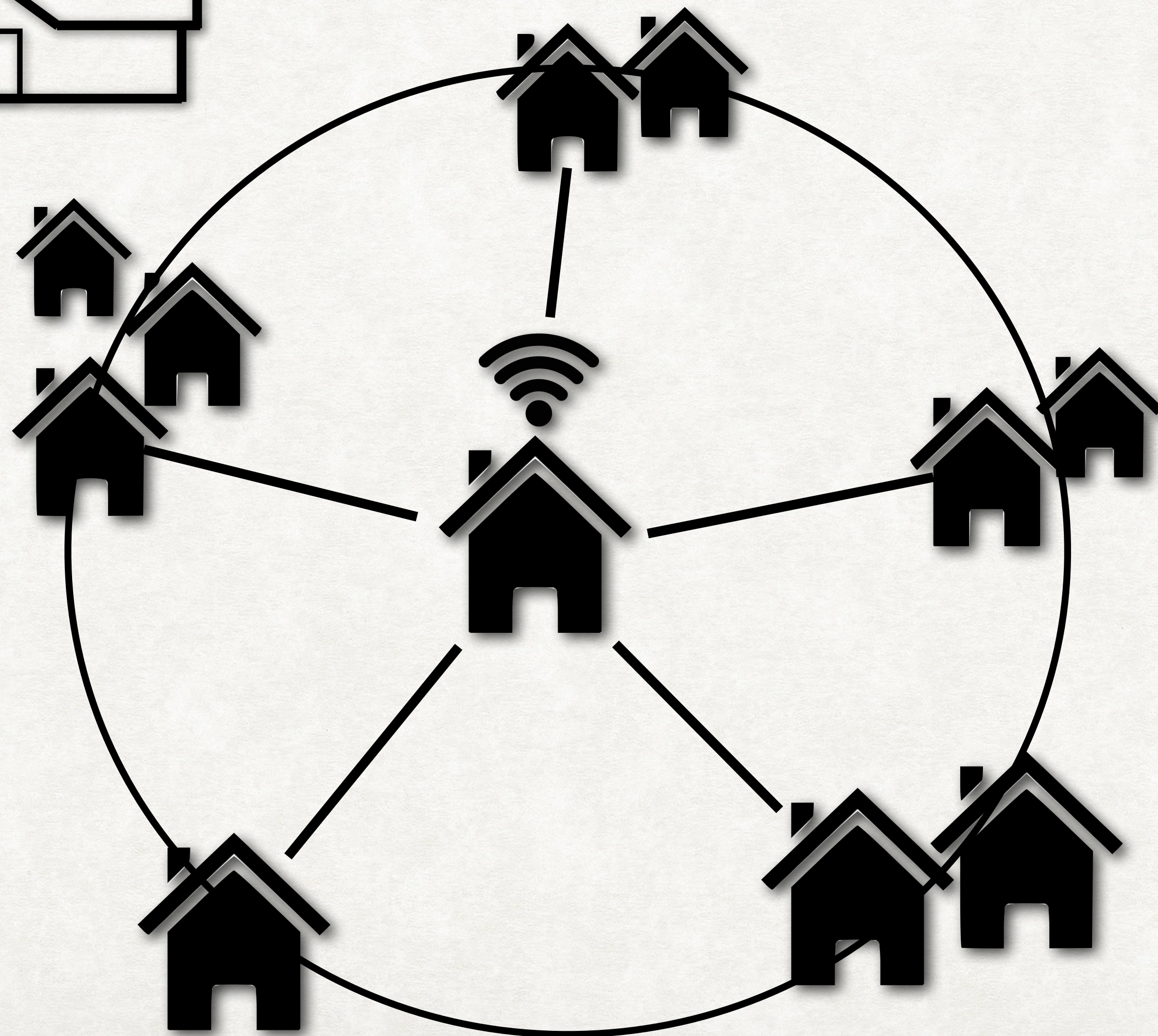
What? Gathering in homes for worship, using internet (FB Live, Zoom) to join in worship, fellowship, and ministry together

Mailings with CDs (of sermon and prayers) and printed service order mailed to those not connected online.

Other ministries: As able with phone calls, online meetings, other creative adaptations within public health guidelines

Phase 1 - Households Joined in Worship

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." — Acts 2:46-47

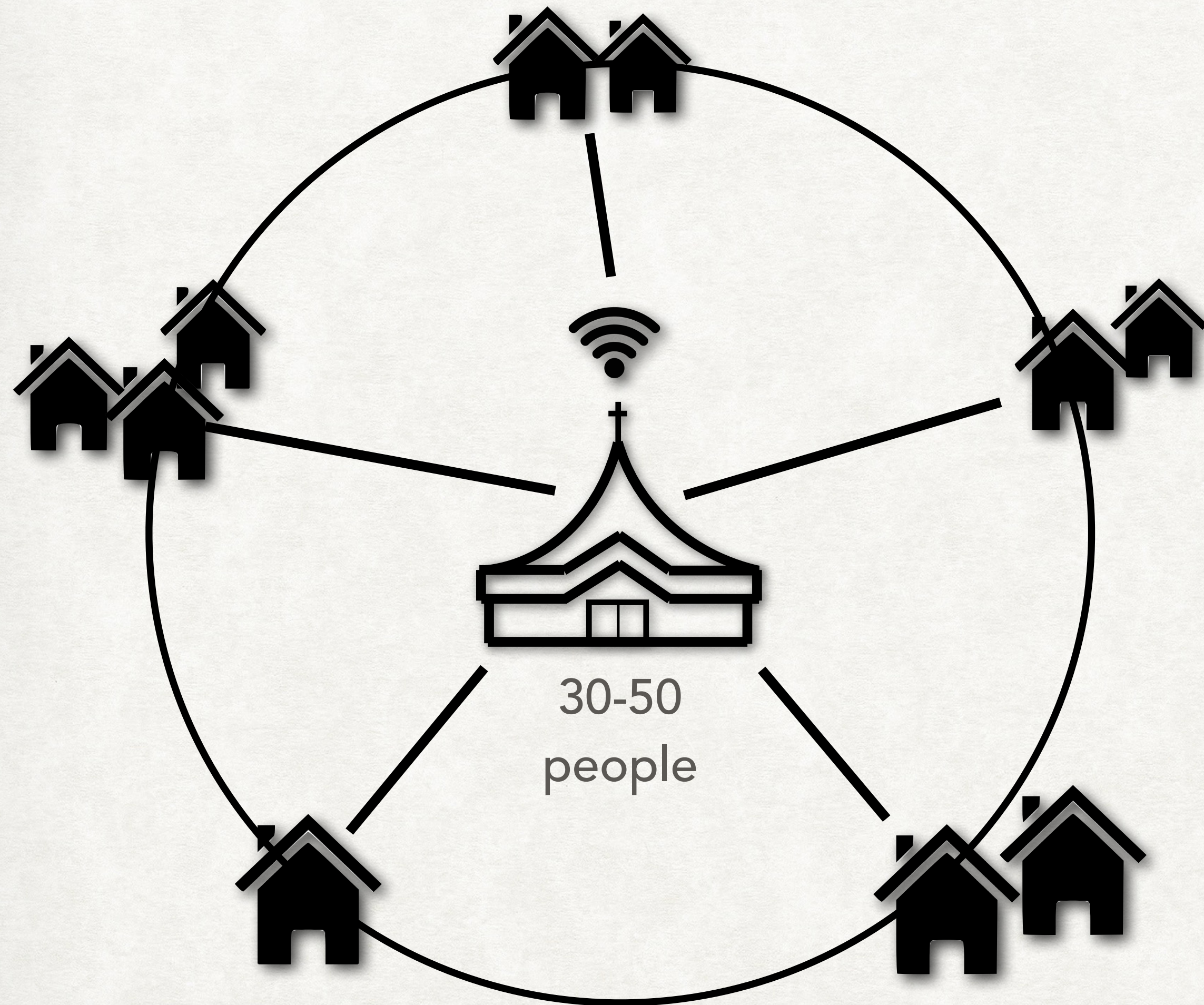


When? Under relaxed "Stay at Home" orders with strict physical distancing, restrictions on gatherings of more than ten people

What? 2-3 households (5-10 people) joining together in homes, using internet (FB Live, Zoom) to join broader body together.

Encourage precautionary measures (hand-washings, masks)

Phase 2 - "Symposiums" of Worship



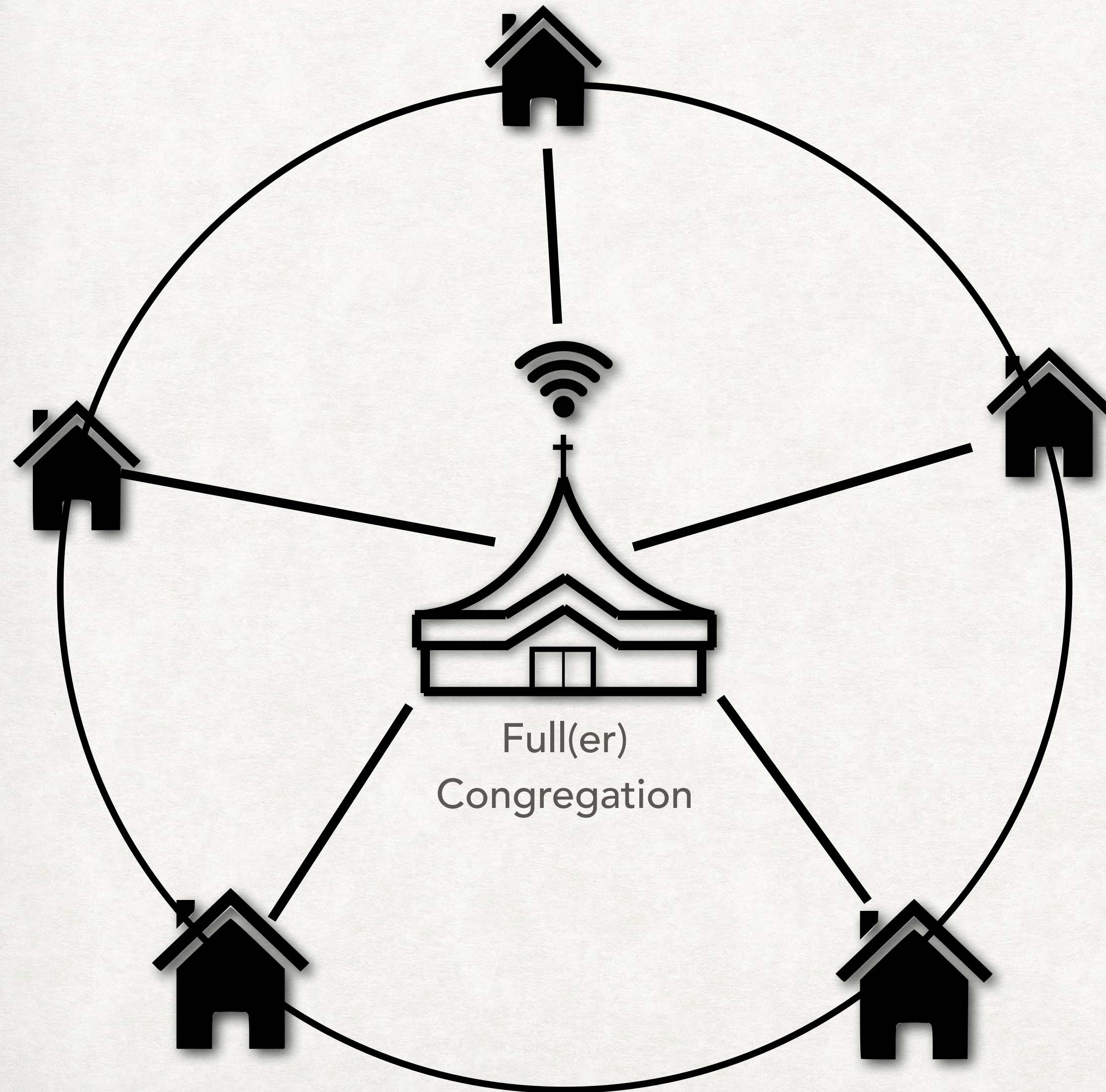
"Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups (Greek: symposia) on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties." — Mark 6:39–40

When? When gradual gatherings of 50 are permitted with moderate physical distancing; vulnerable populations still restricted. (numbers may gradually relax to 75, 100, etc.)

What?

- Rotating worship attendance by alphabet +/- or holding multiple services
- Maintaining/enhancing online worship option
- Sanitation and safety precautions
- No nursery or in-person children's ministry

Phase 3 - Resuming In-Person Worship for All



"...we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face." (1 Thess. 3:10, ESV)

When? Public interactions with limited physical distancing permitted.

What? Full congregation invited, some will continue to worship at distance; modified physical distancing and cleaning practices maintained.

Other ministries: begin to transition back to full/renewed ministry

A TIMELINE ESTIMATE



A very approximate timeline that will vary regionally, and may not be strictly linear (may move back and forth between phases depending on disease spread)

From "What Relaunching the Church Might Look Like Over the Next 3-12 Months." Ed Stetzer and Josh Laxton.

Four “Dance Moves” Churches Need to Learn (from Stetzer and Laxton)

1. Practical Procedures and Policies - for in-person gatherings, communication plans, contingency plans
2. Finances - Be prepared to reassess budget, remembering:
 - a. Mission is the mandate of the church
 - b. People reach people
 - c. Facilities facilitate ministry (including tech)
 - d. Benevolence is beautiful
3. Think Through Ministry Models - corporate worship, small groups, youth and children ministries, volunteering all have been disrupted and will be affected.
4. Think Through Mission Strategy - reconsider spiritual, social, and cultural ministry through this time and beyond.