



Walking with Giving Partners through a Crisis

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Four Keys to Walking With Giving Partners Through Crisis



1. Change the way you make decisions.

Almost nothing is the same, and business as usual is unlikely to happen any time soon. Be prepared to pay close attention to the following:

- Cashflow is critical. It is better to stop a program, reduce staff, or liquidate assets now, rather than waiting for six months to see if things get better.
- Communicate your urgent needs urgently.
- Be flexible, and make decisions with less information than normal.
- Always share hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

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2. Be the expert in finding a way through crisis. The church is here to minister to a great many in need!

- Practice good self-care. Manage rest, exercise, diet, prayer, and healthy boundaries.
- Monitor the newest information related to your situation, and help create solutions.
- Share this information with people you can help, especially your donors. Do not ask, “how can I help you”, but ask, “Would it be helpful if I shared some things I am learning?”

And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. Psalm 78:72

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3. Define reality, especially when stress is high. This is important for staff, volunteers, and donors. There are three types of stress:

- Acute (one-time)
- Episodic (recurring)
- Chronic (persistent)

Question: Knowing that everyone is experiencing some stress right now, how do you serve your donors?

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

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4. Pray, and invite others to pray in the same way.

- Pray for who God will have you encounter, and how you might minister to each individual.
- Be prepared to initiate prayer more, even with those you might not pray for during normal circumstances.
- Be strategic in contacting your donors to pray with them, for them, and ask them to pray for you and God's work.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Four Action Steps

1. Change your decision-making processes
 - Be prepared to make decisions faster, with more flexibility, and with less information.
2. Care for yourself
 - Practice self-care, and teach others to do the same.
3. Define the reality of chronic stress
 - Help people to not underreact or overreact.
4. Pray
 - Pray alone, pray together, and pray often.