

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE

Reset: Simplicity, Sustainability & an Outward Focus (Southview Community Church) - Episode 226

Reset: A New Mindset for a New Season (Part 1)

In January of 2020, [Southview Community Church](#) in Herndon, VA was seeing new leaders developing, new groups launching, and an increase in their attendance and baptisms. Then their church closed its doors for the next 15 months.

As the new year begins, we're launching a new podcast series called "**Reset: A New Mindset for a New Season**," where we'll be interviewing pastors from all different sizes of churches to hear how they are leading forward in this new season. In this episode, Tony sat down with Pastor William Attaway from Southview to discuss what his church experienced in the last couple years and how they're shifting their mindset outward again.

Mindset Shifts for a New Season

We have to think differently:

"For the last six months, and going forward, instead of saying, 'let's just pick up where we left off and pretend like nothing ever happened,' let's think about this differently. Let's think about this as though we have a church plant mindset."

It's about the mindset of the leaders:

"I think it really starts with the mindset of the leaders. One of the things that we talked about around our elder table and around our staff table was, 'What does it look like to have the mindset that we're not just gonna pick up where we left off? That we're going to come into this with a different perspective, a perspective of: what if we have the opportunity to do something different here?'"

It's a time to embrace new opportunities:

"There's things we can only do physically, but there's also certain things that we can only do digitally. So why don't we leverage those strengths? Instead of trying to create a one-size-fits-all solution that we think will hit everybody, and will actually hit no one."

We need to be teachable and learn from others:

“The last couple years have shaken me completely out of any kind of complacency. I'm leaning into teachability like I never have before. I'm listening, I'm learning, and I'm reading, because I want to honor God in how I lead, and I want to encourage our leaders to do the same.”

We should refocus on simplicity and sustainability:

“This is an opportunity for us to very thoughtfully design what we do, and how we do it, in a way that honors our leaders and our volunteers in a way that we haven't always been great at in the past.”

Shift our mission to those outside the church:

“I think the biggest shift for us has been to think not just about the people who are in the room, but to think about the people who aren't yet.”

“Too many are asking whether we will go back to normal. To me, the problematic word is “back.” There is no going back to pre-COVID times. There is only forward—to a new and uncertain future that is currently presenting us with an opportunity for thoughtful design.”

- Amy C. Edmondson, Harvard Business School

One Key Mindset Shift

Pastor William shared a lot of great insight, but if there is one key takeaway, it's this: **We can't just think about the people who are in the room.**

Now more than ever, churches need to focus on their **reach** strategy alongside their discipleship strategy. Especially on this side of the pandemic, we can't assume that new people will just show up to church on Sunday morning.

So define your reach strategy, and invite your ministry leaders and your congregation to engage that reach strategy... just like you ask them to take a next step in discipleship. Because **reaching others is discipleship.**

Listen to the episode on Apple Podcasts or at theunstuckgroup.com/episode226.