

Transcript of Oral History Interview with Anonymous

Interviewee: Speaker 2

Interviewer: Speaker 1

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Abstract: Speaker 2 discusses how COVID-19 affected their faith and participation in their religious community. They focus on how the pandemic has affected their ability to leader their church community and the changed they have seen in how others participate in the community.

Speaker 1 0:00

Question number one, how has COVID-19 affected your faith or belief?

Speaker 2 0:07

For me personally?

Speaker 1 0:08

Yep.

Speaker 2 0:10

Okay, um, I would say, you know, the church is a community. And so that's one of the main things. So it definitely affects my faith in the sense that I can't be a part of my faith community in person. It has affected my faith in that I work at church, you know, and so I can't really effectively lead that community as well, as I normally would, you know, when we can meet in person

Speaker 1 0:43

Right.

Speaker 2 0:44

You know, I'd say there's definitely, for me personally, not as much for other people more who like became unemployed and things like that. Definitely a trial of faith, like kind of like, God, why would you let this happen? kind of thing. So I'm personally not like, there yet. Because financially, we're okay for now, you know, but I can totally see, that's kind of where a lot of people are. So I'd say it's just uncertainty. Right now. Is that too?

Speaker 1 1:14

Okay, cool. Number two, is your religious community still gathering currently? How has COVID-19 affected your participation in your religious community?

Speaker 2 1:23

Yeah, so we do like some Zoom meetings and stuff like that, you know, I go to a really small church, so they can't really live stream. But they'll record videos, and people can watch that. And so it's just not the same, though. You know, the Zoom, and everything is not the same. And I've noticed even people don't participate as well over Zoom, or they don't attend as much over Zoom, which you would think that now everyone has nothing to do. So we would have more people like attending or whatever, but it's actually been less people than in person. I'm not completely sure why I think it could be in partially, partially because like, nobody's on a schedule anymore.

Speaker 1 2:06

Right.

Speaker 2 2:06

It's like a weekend is constantly every day. So it's kind of hard to remember stuff. And I think that could be a reason why, but I don't know for sure.

Speaker 1 2:16

Okay. And number three, is you religious community supplying or engaged in any kind of community service in an attempt to help alleviate issues caused by the pandemic? If so, what are those efforts?

Speaker 2 2:30

So my church, I don't think is because I don't think they even have, like, they're barely even getting by, you know, they're just trying to pay the rent right now. And the issue is, for lots of churches, people aren't giving as much because people aren't, you know, making money and our church-churches rely on giving. So I don't know, I think that a lot of churches are not able to support people in their community right now. Granted, you have some churches that can, you know, that have a lot of income at or quick cash flow, but even big churches or church are hurting, you know, significantly, even like, you know, Valley Baptists, that the church that you guys, we went to, and everything like, they they're reduced the budget for a week was like, something I want to say like \$160,000 a week, that was like their reduced budget, okay, which is a ton of money. Right? But it's still big, they need that much money just to run. And so then, like, the first week that it all went down, they only got like, \$50,000. So that's like, not even, that's like a third of what they want, you know.

Speaker 1 3:39

Right.

Speaker 2 3:39

So it's definitely financially impacting churches in a way that they can't do as much, you know, as they would want to.

Speaker 1 3:49

Yeah

Speaker 2 3:50

So no, I would say lots of churches can't. And my church in particular, I don't think they've done anything out in the community. And also you're not really supposed to be the community. So yeah,

Speaker 1 4:02

Yeah, very complicated. All right. That is it. Thank you so much for your time.