

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several circular elements: a large scale on the left with markings from 140 to 260, and several smaller circles with dashed lines and arrows, some containing partial solid lines, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

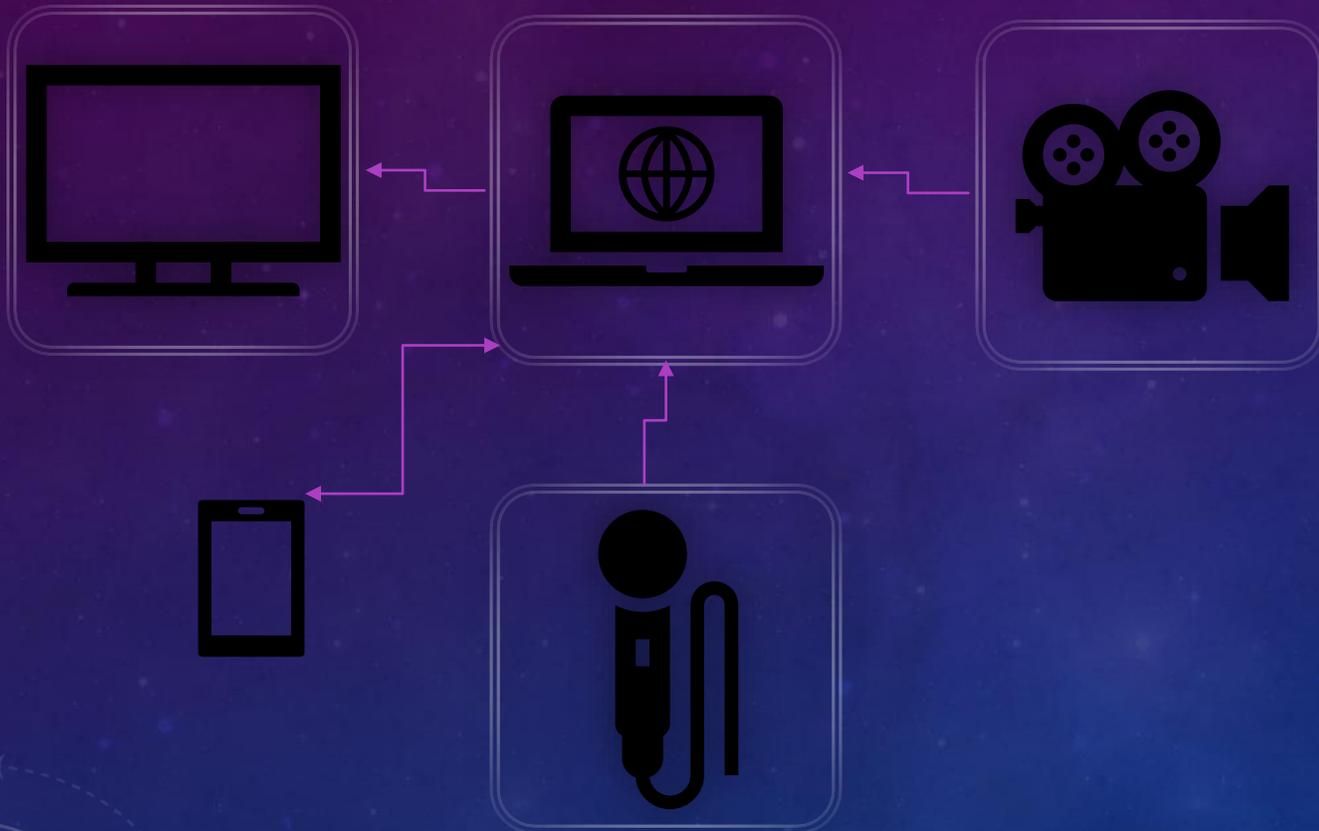
HYBRID MEETINGS AT GRANITE CITY BACK TO BASICS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY BOB S

BACK TO BASICS GRANITE CITY IL

1. BTB began meeting by Zoom Only on April 3, 2020.
2. We began experimenting with hybrid face to face and Zoom meetings in July 2020. Returned to Zoom Only in November following the COVID-19 increase. Currently still Zoom Only.
3. Perhaps unique to BTB hybrid was the meeting was chaired at the FTF site, not by a member on Zoom.
4. We also endeavored to set up the meeting so that people could remain seated in a “church basement” setting.
5. There was a television available at Thrive Church where we met.
6. There was no internet access at the church.

BTB HYBRID SETUP



- Cell phone set up as mobile hot spot and connected by blue tooth to laptop.
- Laptop to TV connected by HDMI Cable. This connection provided the in-person people with video of the remote Zoom participants as well as sound.
- Laptop to separate Webcam connected by USB Cable. This provided video.
- Laptop to Microphone connected by TRRS to TRS splitter, then by TRS extension cord. The TRRS-TRS splitter is critical to change the “four band” jack on the laptop to separate “three band” microphone and speaker jacks.



TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH BTB SETUP

- With no internet service, we needed to use a personal cell phone as a hot spot. This worked well with a few exceptions where we needed to reconnect to the hot spot.
- The TV, which was an older HD TV, would constantly try to switch to screen saver ever 2 to 20 minutes. Participants would have to waive their hands to get the camera to pick up action. This problem was never resolved before we went back to Zoom only.
- The portable microphone sometimes didn't work well. This was sometimes operator error (forgot the splitter) but other times people wouldn't speak into the microphone. Upgrading the microphone is a possible solution. The microphone on the webcam could not pick up the speech of the more distant participants.
- We constantly wiped down the microphone with sanitizer between used.
- Setup and take down time was generally around 10 to 15 minutes.

PEOPLE ISSUES WITH BTB SETUP

- I often felt the attendees were uncomfortable with the setup (especially being on camera). People would come into the meeting and deliberately sit themselves out of the field of view of the camera.
- People were uncomfortable with the microphone. We never established a practice as to if you needed to keep your mask on when speaking.
- Remote Zoom attendees initially would not tell the FTF people when the sound quality was poor.
- I personally spent too much time keeping the equipment working vs paying attention to what was being said and carrying the message. I got better with this but the TV going to screen saver was a constant distraction.

POSITIVES WITH BTB HYBRID MEETING

- We are sharing our experiences with other hybrid meetings. Our problems are not unique, and as a group we felt very positive about what we were trying to do.
- Hybrids will probably be around for a while if not ongoing. This was valuable experience, and we can only get better at doing this.
- And finally:
- The people who worked hard to make this happen are still sober and here to tell you about it. We did our part to carry the AA message to those who still suffer.