

Fireside Chats

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To draw Vernon Alliance church together by creating space for connection & conversation.

Goal: To see as many people as would like, to experience a fireside chat.

We are asking 40+ leaders to host an experience where people get together in groups of 10 or less to enjoy connection and conversation around a campfire. It is a time to hear from each other and pray for one another.

Fireside Chat Q&A

GENERAL

1. How many people will we be gathering with?

Between 6 and 10 people maximum including hosts.

2. Where will this happen?

In your host's yard around a firepit, or in one of your participant's yards. It could also be done in a public outdoor space such as a park. The firepit adds to the ambience but is not a required component.

3. When will this happen?

The time frame is between May 15 and June 30.

4. What about Covid restrictions?

We recognize we are all trying to do our best here. We are not coercing anyone to do something they are not comfortable with. Our leadership is comfortable proceeding on this basis. It's outside. It's 10 people or less. If anyone is symptomatic, they should not participate. We don't want to be directive but encourage you to use your common sense and let your conscience be your guide. Masks are not required outdoors if social distancing is in place.

There is a ZOOM option for those who would prefer to meet on-line.

5. Does this event include children?

We are unable to include children due to Covid restrictions with the exception of nursing infants.

6. What information will you require of me in advance?

A) We need to know which days of the week could work for you to participate in the evening. We do not need specific dates.

B) We also will need to know if you prefer meeting in person or on Zoom.

FOR HOSTS

7. What if we'd like to host but prefer not to meet in person?

You can host it online on Zoom. We will help you to set that up.

8. How many times will hosts be facilitating a group?

A) If you are a home group leader, facilitate your group. We hope you will also be available for a second time to host outside of your group.

B) If you are not a home group leader but have been asked to facilitate, we hope you will lead once.

9. What if our home group has more than 10 people?

You can divide your group and host 2 separate events. You can lead both or have one of your group members lead one. Let Marni know who your second host is so she can invite them to the training. We hope you will also host another time with people outside your group.

10. How will I know who to invite?

We will be inviting people to register online to attend a Fireside Chat according to the evening of the week that works best for them. We will provide you with a list of people to invite from those who have indicated the same day of the week as you.

11. When will I receive the guest information?

The online registration window is between May 9 and May 23. You may receive your guest list via email anytime between May 10 and May 25. You can contact them as soon as you receive the list.

12. How will my guests know when and where to arrive?

After you have received the names and contact information of your guests, you are responsible for communicating with them. You can choose the exact date, time and location for your Fireside Chat.

13. What if there is inclement weather on our chosen meeting date?

Reschedule by choosing an alternate date using the same preferred weeknight.

14. What if I don't have enough chairs?

Ask people to bring their own lawn chairs.

15. How will we know what to talk about?

You will receive your information at the training session or via email shortly afterward. All participants will be given a brief reading and guide in order to come prepared to share their thoughts.

16. What else do I need to provide?

Food & beverages are not to be provided due to Covid restrictions. Although it may not be needed, your washroom will need to be available. We ask that you disinfect your washroom and provide paper towels for hand drying as well as hand sanitizer. Guests should wear masks inside your home.

17. What does my role as leader entail during the evening?

Welcome your guests and direct them to where you will be meeting. Encourage introductions within the group, especially for those new to one another. As host, you should start the sharing time. When finished, ask if someone will pray for you and after you have been prayed for ask someone else to go next. As leader, ensure each person gets a turn and encourage guests to pray for one other person. Pray for those where no one else volunteers, so that no one gets missed. Each participant can take approx. 10 minutes to share and be prayed for.

18. Once the evening is over do I need to do anything?

We will provide you with specific follow-up questions to highlight your experience and give an opportunity for feedback to church leadership. You will also be contacted in person to discuss how it went for your group.