

# COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS

## Belonging Together/Programs

FOCUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External
VOLUNTEER BASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General corps membership <input type="checkbox"/> External volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Music sections <input type="checkbox"/> Women's ministries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors' ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People with Disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caregivers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Canadians <input type="checkbox"/> Social mission <input type="checkbox"/> Parents of babies and toddlers
SAMIS INPUT	<input type="checkbox"/> CCM events <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CCM programs <input type="checkbox"/> CCM visitation <input type="checkbox"/> Other

### Program description:

Coffee and Conversation is a relaxed and welcoming gathering where people come together over coffee, tea and light refreshments to engage in conversation and build relationships. This program fosters a sense of community, encourages spiritual discussions (when appropriate) and provides a safe space for individuals to connect with others in an informal, friendly setting.

### What are the intended program outcomes?

Goals include:

- Strengthened sense of community within the corps and beyond.
- Reduction in social isolation, particularly among seniors and newcomers.
- Opportunities for spiritual conversations and informal pastoral care.
- Increased participation in other corps or community activities.

### How will these outcomes be evaluated?

Attendance tracking over time.

Informal feedback from participants.

Volunteer reflections on engagement and participant needs.

Testimonials from attendees about the program's personal impact.



## What procedures are required to set up this program?

**Identify logistics:** Select a regular time and location (e.g., church hall, café space, community room).

**Recruit volunteers:** Identify a team for hospitality (greeters, hosts, setup/cleanup teams).

**Secure supplies and/or budget:** Arrange for coffee, tea, snacks, and necessary supplies either through a budget line or donations.

**Promote the program:** Use corps bulletins, posters, social media, and word-of-mouth to invite attendees.

**Prepare the space:** Arrange tables and chairs to foster small group conversations and create an inviting atmosphere.

## What procedure is required to operate this program?

### Before the gathering:

- Set up tables and seating for conversation.
- Prepare coffee, tea, and refreshments.
- Ensure signage is visible to direct participants to the space.

### During the gathering:

- Have volunteers stationed as greeters to welcome attendees.
- Facilitate inclusive conversations; have optional discussion topics available if needed.
- Offer informal pastoral support if opportunities arise naturally.

### After the gathering:

- Clean up the space and dispose of any garbage appropriately.
- Have a brief volunteer debrief to reflect on the session and identify any follow-up needs.

## Are there financial costs attached to providing this program?

- Coffee, tea, snack supplies (potentially offset through donations or sponsorship).
- Printing of promotional materials.
- Venue costs (only if an external location is required)

## What physical resources will I require?

- Coffee/tea preparation supplies (cups, sugar, milk, stirrers, napkins).
- Tables and chairs for comfortable seating.
- Signage to guide attendees to the event space.
- Printed promotional materials (flyers, posters).

## Would any additional training be necessary for volunteers with this program?

- Vulnerable sector screening.
- Abuse prevention training.
- Basic visitation training (recommended for volunteers engaging in deeper conversations).
- Food handling certificate (recommended if serving anything beyond simple refreshments).

## For more information:

For additional guidance, resources or support in planning your program, please contact the community mission department at territorial headquarters for sample materials, best practices and consultation on outreach strategy.