

COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS

Belonging Together/Programs

FOCUS	☒ Internal ☒ External
VOLUNTEER BASE	☒ General corps membership ☐ External volunteers ☐ Youth ☐ Music sections ☐ Women's ministries ☒ Seniors' ministries ☐ Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	☒ Seniors ☐ Youth ☒ People with Disabilities ☒ Caregivers ☒ New Canadians ☐ Social mission ☐ Parents of babies and toddlers

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.