

Guidelines for a Spiritual Conversation

- Allow at least an hour for the conversation, more for some people. The amount of time is less important than creating a safe and fruitful means for people to share their spirituality.
- It is important to take time to allow the Spirit to be present and to guide the direction of the conversation. This is why beginning with prayer and a Scripture passage of your choice is suggested.
- Related to this is the importance of creating a climate of hospitality and openness. Lighting a candle as part of the prayer time would be helpful.
- Listening and asking open-ended questions are vital. Avoid making evaluative comments. Ask follow-up questions aimed at inviting the person to uncover and share more about his or her experiences.
- Seek to let the Spirit create in you love, appreciation, interest in, and respect for the person who is willing to do this interview.
- Conclude with silence and a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of the Spirit and your time together.
- Record notes and ideas to share with the team after the conversation. During the conversation, focus on active listening.

Conversation Questions

Begin with a time of prayer and psalm reading (e.g. selected verses from Psalm 139, Romans 8:26, or a Scripture passage of your choosing).

1. What drew you here to have this conversation?
2. What have been some major turning points in your life? For instance, a move, a new job, loss of a job, marriage, the birth of a baby, a divorce, a period of family struggle, the death of a loved one, other.
3. Did you experience God's presence or love at any of these times?
4. Have you had other times when you experienced God's presence and love or felt especially close to God? For instance: in prayer and meditation, in worship, studying Scripture, participating in a small group, listening to music, reading literature, encountering art, being in nature, an important person in your life, other. Please share an example or examples.
5. What do you regularly do that brings you into God's presence and deepens your relationship with God?
6. Do you feel a hunger to grow closer to God? Are you looking for ways your relationship with God could grow? What help and guidance would you like your local church or the conference to offer? For instance: Bible study, prayer and meditation, spiritual direction, books on spirituality, spiritual support group, spiritual friend, dream interpretation, study of other religions, retreats, discovery of Spiritual Gifts.