

Parkside Church
GUIDE FOR CAMPFIRE HOSTS

Tenure:	August 2020 - January 2021 (6 months)
Supervisor:	Parkside Pastor
Responsibility:	To create a safe, weekly space for Parksiders to gather and grow in their faith by leading an in-person Campfire service (a mix of interpersonal and video ministry).
Requirements:	Be a passionate and seasoned follower of Jesus and have a desire to see others grow in the faith; be a reliable host (able to host 70% or more of the time); and be a gracious host (able to read a room; don't talk too much; make people feel cared for, etc.).

A. THINGS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) **Am I ready to answer the call and commitment of hosting?** Be available on a consistent basis to lead and care for a group of people. Inevitably, there will be a need to communicate with gathering members during the week too.
- 2) **Who can co-host?** Identify and invite a co-host (not from your household) to help lighten the load and ensure consistency of weekly gatherings in times of illness or holidays.
- 3) **Where will we meet?** It could be someone's living room, a large space at the church (there's a booking procedure and room use protocols), or when the weather is nice and if you have the technology, a backyard. It's good to have a back-up location in case it's in someone's home and they are sick!
- 4) **What's the most we can gather?** This is going to be determined by the size of the gathering space and your comfort level. Groups might vary from 3-6 households depending on the size of the households.
- 5) **When will we gather?** What day and time will you gather?
- 6) **Who would join our gathering?** Are there fellow Parksiders or neighbours that you might be a good fit to gather with you? Begin a conversation with those people and see what they think!

- 7) **Are my motives right?** Hosting requires sacrifice, but you'll grow and you'll be a blessing to others and most importantly to our Lord!

B. HOSTING A SERVICE:

- 1) **Pray and Review.** A service guide will be emailed each week to give you a heads up on content, etc. Read and pray through the elements and for the members of your gathering.
- 2) **Send a reminder to members.** Since this is a new thing with safety protocols, we'll provide you with a template to email/message/text members with a reminder a couple days before each gathering. Asking them to RSVP will help with attendance commitment and venue preparation. In this day and age, people need reminders and personal invites.
- 3) **Prepare the venue.** Arrive early and follow any COVID protocols for preparing the physical aspects of the space and elements of the service (TV ready, etc.). (Please note that using a room in the church has very specific protocols that will be made available to those gatherings meeting at the church).
- 4) **Host the service.** Welcome people and remind them of safety protocols. Take attendance. Host the service by facilitating the service order and elements. This can be stressful if you're worried about everything going perfectly, but relax and recognize that we're all just people learning how to love God and one another. Be conscious of the time - it's better to have people leave wanting more than to have them staring at the time. Read the room and do your best to help everyone feel comfortable.
- 5) **Journal.** Right after the service, connect with the co-host and make a Campfire journal entry. Write down any questions, prayer requests, highlights, thoughts for improvement, etc. If it doesn't get written down right away, you'll forget and squander opportunities.
- 6) **Follow-up with a Pastor.** Be prepared to receive a phone call from a Pastor the day after your gathering and to share updates on how the group went (your journal will come in handy for this).

C. HOST SUPPORT

- 1) **Pastoral support.** Every host will receive a call the day after each gathering from a Pastor to touch base on how things went. It's our goal to encourage you, help solve issues, cheer you on, and share gathering highlights with the rest of the church to encourage them!

- 2) **Tech support.** We're available to help you get the tech side of life figured out. The two main areas are displaying the video on a large screen and group communication (using our online group management system).
- 3) **Other.** Maybe you need help finding a co-host, location, a good time to meet or prospective guests? We can help.

D. STEPS TO MOVE FORWARD:

- 1) **Let us know you're interested in hosting.** Go to www.parksidechurch.ca/hosting. Wait to hear back from a Pastor before proceeding to step two.
- 2) **Partner with a co-host.** Work with a Pastor to identify and secure a co-host.
- 3) **Register your Campfire.** Once you are good to go (steps 1 and 2 are approved), register your Campfire by filling out the "Campfire Registration" form (paper and online version available). This form will include all of the logistics above so that we can publish accurate information and set-up your group in our online system to help track attendance and pastoral care, etc.
- 4) **Work to fill the space.** Work with friends, neighbours, the online directory and Pastors to get the right people connected to your gathering. Don't be offended along the way - sometimes other groups or times or locations are a better fit. We're serving the Lord, not our ego.
- 5) **Meet!** Have your first meeting and talk with a Pastor about how it went and make necessary changes as you go.

Thank you for being a part of this body. We pray the Lord will call and strengthen you for this good work. Bless you!