

Last Sabbath, July 9, I passed around a brief survey to those attending our Social Meetings, asking for their thoughts on what the future of the Social Meeting at our church ought to be. A total of 25 surveys were returned. Here are some fun facts generated by the surveys:

- Of the 25 surveys received, all indicated they want the Social Meeting to continue.
- 11 people indicated they would like to meet at 9:30 AM on Sabbath mornings.
- 18 indicated they would like to meet on Sabbath afternoons.
- 1 person indicated they'd like to meet on weekdays in the afternoon.
- 3 people indicated they'd like to meet on a weekday evening.

NOTE: These numbers don't add up to 25, because some people indicated more than one time they'd like to meet at.

Additionally, nearly every survey was very enthusiastic and reported in glowing terms what they appreciated about the Social Meeting. Here's a small sampling of what attendees said they appreciate:

- “the authentic sharing, and growing closer to God and each other”
- “learning more about our brothers and sisters and their lives and challenges makes us feel closer to one another”
- “getting ideas, fellowship, and affirmation”
- “a spiritual compass for a new week”
- “the prayers and the honesty”
- “being honest and open and yet confidential with very personal topics”
- “just talking with others about real life, knowing each other”

As for suggestions for making the Social Meetings better, there were relatively few that were offered. Some examples include:

- “comfy chairs ☺”
- “occasionally sharing somehow with the church body about the positives of the Social Meeting experience”
- “[keeping] a prayer book with praise and prayers to be prayed over”
- “more people!”
- “let people know to stick with [the Social Meeting], because with time, if people follow the [Social Meeting guidelines], it will be very meaningful to them”

Where To Next?

With these things in mind, here are the next steps for the Social Meeting on our campus:

1. Our two Social Meetings will continue to meet as they have been, including this coming Sabbath, July 16:

- **First Meeting: 9:30 AM Sabbath mornings in the Fellowship Hall**
- **Second Meeting: 2:15 PM in the Earliteen Room**

2. The Sabbath morning Social Meeting will be co-led by Norbert Jedamski and Kevin and Jean Crawford.

3. The Sabbath afternoon Social Meeting at the church will be led by Clayton Kinney.

4. There are potentially three other Social Meetings that if launched will most likely start in the Fall. I will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

5. For all Social Meetings, both those that exist now and those that will start in the future: Honest sharing, genuine care for one another, and focused prayer are important elements of a healthy Social Meeting. But one other crucial practice that will help determine any Social Meeting's success is when *current attenders invite new people—either church members or those who aren't yet members—to attend the meeting with them*. New people in our meetings helps provide the best chance possible of maintaining our vibrancy and health! They also make it possible eventually for new meetings to be started. More than forty of you have been richly blessed by just five weeks of Social Meetings. Let's now share that blessing with others! 😊

Thank You!

I am grateful to each of you that has put much time and effort into launching this important ministry! And though I will be away for the next few weeks on vacation, I will look forward to meeting with you again when I return, and celebrating the stories you'll have then to share.

Have a blessed July/August with Christ and the Social Meeting!

Pastor Shane