

Guide to Starting an Online Healing Community

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Contents

Introduction	1
Finding Members	2
Planning an Online Healing Community	2
Meeting Agendas	2
Setting the Stage	3
How Meeting on Zoom Is Different from Meeting in Person	3
Getting Acquainted	4
Keeping Track of Members	4
Picture Directory	4
Spreadsheet	5
Sample Emails, Agendas and Questions for Group Leaders	5
Sample Email response to inquiries about OSL	5
Email letter to prospective members	5
Sample Agendas	6
Other Study Options & Agenda Examples for OSL Meetings	7
Resources on Google Drive	8
Guides, Templates, and Spreadsheets for Conveners	8
<i>Additional Guides on the Google Drive</i>	8
Extending Our OSL Online Influence	8

Introduction

This guide is written for OSL members considering starting an online healing community as a convener or chaplain. We have included what worked when we started an online healing community, sample documents and templates for a directory and spreadsheet along with some helpful tips.

Finding Members

Who is going to be interested in an online healing community? Some folks are simply curious about OSL. Others are inspired by the teachings at virtual conferences and want more. Some are active OSL members who no longer have access to an OSL community.

OSL frequently makes an announcement with an email address for people to inquire about OSL. Rev. Sarah Bronos and OSL volunteers sort these emails into groups:

- Folks who want to know more about OSL
- Folks who want to participate in online training
- Active OSL members who want to join an online community

It's helpful for the convener to be the one to email those who want to join an online healing community and then to talk to them by phone. You will want to learn their OSL experience, gifts and talents, and some personal information. Giving them an overview of how your online community will be organized will usually be followed by questions. As convener, I talk to potential members for 15-30 minutes. I found the time invested was really helpful since I felt like I knew quite a bit about each one before we started. When we had our first meeting, I was often the only person they knew.

After a virtual conference there will usually be several email requests for more information about OSL and online healing communities. A follow-up email can provide basic information about online training to become OSL members or online healing communities. These emails can end with a request for a phone number from those who believe they are being called to join an online healing community. See Sample Emails.

Planning an Online Healing Community

In addition to OSL members, an online healing community will need:

- A convener
- A technology guru to handle technology issues
- An OSL chaplain
- A musician to lead worship

Although it's possible for a convener or chaplain who's good with technology to fill more than one role, it makes things much easier to have these four members each focus on their role.

Meeting Agendas

Some sample agendas are included. It works well to design meetings that last between an hour and an hour and fifteen minutes. Meetings longer than an hour and a half are difficult for participants sitting in a chair staring at their computers, phones or tablets.

Here is a basic design for meetings:

- Worship led by musician
- Welcome, announcements and technical support

- Prayer
- Teaching
- Questions and answers for teacher or chaplain
- Breakout rooms for
 - Getting acquainted
 - Application of teaching
 - Prayer for each other
- Closure and conclusion of meeting

Setting the Stage

People will form their opinion about an online healing community from their experience at the first meeting. So, the introductory meeting needs to be very well planned. Be prepared to have technology problems. The technical guru should stand by to resolve problems as quickly as possible. Attendees need to feel welcome and they need to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit at the meeting.

The convener, worship leader, chaplain and technical guru need to be familiar with the agenda they have agreed upon before the meeting. They should be ready to follow the agenda yet open to changes if prompted by the Holy Spirit.

How Meeting on Zoom Is Different from Meeting in Person

People in an online healing community won't know each other and may never have an opportunity to meet in person. A picture directory and get acquainted activities are very helpful. (See directory guidelines and get acquainted activities later in this document.)

Breakout rooms are key to setting the stage for prayer as well as getting to know each other. It's a good idea to limit the size of each breakout room group to 4 or 5 with a leader appointed by the convener ahead of time. Ideally a Zoom meeting should last between an hour and an hour and 15 minutes. An hour and a half should be the *absolute longest* a meeting runs. Here are my timeline suggestions:

- Music at the start of the meeting should last 5-7 minutes. Your worship leader may want to provide additional music before the meeting. Singing along while you're muted on Zoom is not the same as worshiping in a room full of OSL members.
- The Teaching should last between 15 and 20 minutes, with a brief opportunity to ask the teacher questions afterwards. Long lectures don't work well on Zoom. It's better for the teacher to make follow up suggestions.
- Application of the teaching and prayer time in breakout rooms should last 15-20 minutes. (See questions for group leaders.)

Getting Acquainted

Online healing communities are made up of members from several different locations. They will probably represent more than one geographic area and time zone. Members crave some type of get acquainted activities. Here’s what I’ve found helpful:

- One or two members sharing how they were called into healing ministry at each meeting
- Spending time on introductions in breakout rooms
- Leaders of breakout rooms pre-appointed with prepared questions found on sample agendas
- Informal chatting before worship at meetings
- One or two coffee hour meetings with ice breakers and opportunities to learn about each other
- Here’s a link to ice breakers and Zoom games to help members get acquainted:
[For Healing Communities - Ice Breakers & Zoom Game Ideas](#)


Keeping Track of Members

Our experience has shown that two types of member lists are useful.

- A **picture directory** with member names, location, and email distributed to members
- A **spreadsheet** maintained by the convener with additional information

Picture Directory

We created one in Microsoft Word using a table with these columns. A Microsoft Word template is available on the OSL Google drive: [Directory Template for Online Communities](#), which you may copy and edit to create your own. You might want to check with your members to be sure you have permission to share their contact information.

	Convener			
	Chaplain			
	Rev. Sarah Bronos, OSL Director of Online Healing Communities	revdsarah@icloud.com	Melborne, FL	EDT
	<i>(members in alphabetical order)</i>			
	...			

During one meeting using Zoom in gallery view, we took several screen shots to be sure to have a good picture of each member. Then using PowerPoint we cropped the individuals one at a time. If you use PowerPoint's automatic alignment features, you can get them all the same size with ease. Then copy and paste them one at a time into the directory. If you would like help doing this, contact Ben Pitman: benpitman88@outlook.com, 678-571-4179 in Atlanta, GA.

Once we had the first draft, we sent it out to the members to make sure that they were happy with the picture and that name, location, and email were correct.

Spreadsheet

We have found it useful to have a spreadsheet with the following information for members and potential members. A Google Doc Spreadsheet Template is available on the OSL Google drive: [Spreadsheet of Members Template for Conveners](#) which you may copy and edit to create your own.

Name	Email	Phone	OSL Member	Location	Time Zone	Contact Status	Other
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The Rev. Sarah Bronos has a national spreadsheet database of members of online healing communities. Please share your members' information with her by contacting the Rev. Sarah Bronos at revdsarah@icloud.com.

Sample Emails, Agendas and Questions for Group Leaders

Sample Email response to inquiries about OSL

Hi _____,

Please give me your phone number and a good time to call so we can chat. Also, is Michigan in the central time zone? Looking forward to talking to you soon!

Sharon Pitman

Email letter to prospective members

You expressed some interest in an online healing community. Rev John Rice, Rev Sarah Bronos and I are planning to start one using Zoom soon. We will have meetings that include praise and worship, announcements, a teaching followed by discussion and prayer. In addition to meetings, we are thinking about ways to socialize, pray together and support each other's healing prayer calling.

Some folks who participate in our meetings will be going through OSL online training, some will be full OSL members without access to an active chapter and others may just be curious folks who want to learn more about OSL. Does this seem like something you might

be interested in? If so, reply to me with your phone number, time zone and a good time to call you. I hope to hear from you soon!

Sharon Pitman

Convener for Healing Hands Healing Community and Georgia OSL representative

Sample Agendas

First Meeting Thursday, 7:00 PM July 9

1. Worship - 12 minutes of music - Sherry MacLean (Longer music at first meeting so Ben can assist members with technical problems.)
2. Welcome, announcements and technical support - Sharon and Ben
3. Music Introduction - Sherry MacLean
4. Prayer – Rev. John Rice
5. Introductory words – Rev. Josh Acton
6. Installations – Josh
 - Chapter
 - Chaplains
 - Convener
7. Prayer – Rev. John Rice
8. Teaching - The mission/vision/objectives of OSL and how we can fulfill them as an online healing community – Rev. Sarah Bronos
9. Questions for Rev Sarah – Rev. Sarah Bronos
10. Meet in groups of 3-4 in breakout rooms for 20 minutes. (Leaders assigned ahead of time.)
 - Introduce yourself (limit to 2 minutes or less)
 - Name
 - Where you're located
 - How long you've been part of OSL
 - Share one of your gifts or talents
 - Share prayer requests
 - Leader prays for group
 - Volunteers can add prayer for group.
11. If time allows, discuss a name for our online healing community.
12. Blessing prayers – Rev. John Rice
13. Announcement about coffee hour July 23 - Come to get acquainted and pray with each other. - Sharon

Coffee hour Thursday, 7:00 PM July 23

1. Music (How Great Thou Art - Debbie McCraw 7+ minutes)
2. Opening prayer – Rev. John Rice
3. Poll - Vote for a name for our healing community. - Sharon and Ben
4. Drop Kick Me Jesus – Rev. John Rice
5. Three or four volunteers share: How did God call you into healing ministry? – Rev. John Rice
6. Prayer Groups of 4-5 meet in breakout rooms - Sharon
 - Pick a leader for your group.
 - Introduce yourself and share one of your gifts or talents.
 - Share prayer requests
 - Pray for each other
 - Leader prays for whole breakout group. Volunteers pray for group too.
7. Closure and Prayer for our healing community – Rev. John Rice

Other Study Options & Agenda Examples for OSL Meetings

Book Study

The OSL healing community could do a book study on one of the recommended books about healing prayer. Participants could read, for example, one chapter between meetings. During the first 30 minutes of the meeting, participants could discuss the chapter. During the second 30 minutes, participants could spend time in prayer.

Click here for a link to the [OSL Today website's bookstore](#) for recommended books.

Christian Healing Ministries

Christian Healing Ministries (CHM) and OSL have partnered up. CHM offers a series of “Levels” of training materials for purchase. Each level has approximately 12 video lessons of Francis and Judith MacNutt teaching the lesson. Members follow along in their workbook, which includes an introduction, notes, and Scripture verses for each lesson.

Hosting a meeting on Zoom means that you cannot stream the DVD videos (Zoom won't allow you to share a DVD); however, you can instead purchase and stream the audio files (via Share Computer Sound). Click here for instructions on [how to share your computer sound](#).

Each level has a set of DVD Here is [a link to the Level 1 audio cds, DVDs, and workbooks](#). This program does have a cost, so be aware of that if you choose this study option.

Example Agenda: Each video is approximately 45 min to 60 min long. Because members can turn off their Zoom video feed and look at their workbook during the audio lesson, the OSL Zoom meeting can be a bit longer. It is recommended that the Zoom meeting, in this case, be one and a half hours, beginning with the audio lesson, having a short group discussion, and finishing with 20-30 minutes in small groups via Breakout Rooms practicing the prayer type from the lesson & discussing further.

Resources on Google Drive

There are many files available in the shared OSL Google Drive folder:

Click here: [Documents & Zoom Guides - Shared with all OSL members](#)

You can either go to the folder above to see all of the files or click on individual files below to be taken directly to the file of your choice.

Guides, Templates, and Spreadsheets for Conveners

- Guide to Starting an Online Healing Community (this guide)
- [Easy Zoom Tips & Tricks for Zoomers](#)
- [Hosting a Zoom Meeting Tips](#)
- [A Community Directory template](#)
- [Spreadsheet of Members Template for Conveners](#)
- OSL Online Healing Communities Spreadsheet to keep track of members (please contact the [Rev. Sarah Bronos](#) for access)
- [Services - for Inducting OSL Members, Chaplains, Conveners.docx](#)
- [Ice Breakers & Zoom Game Ideas](#)

Additional Guides on the Google Drive

- [For Conferences - Guide to Hosting an Online Conference](#)
- [Slides with Helpful Zoom Instructions to Show Participants](#)
- [Prayer Ministry Zoom Breakout Room Guidelines](#)
- [Zoom Guide – How to Download a File from Dropbox](#)
- [Zoom Guide – How to Share Audio via Zoom](#)

Extending Our OSL Online Influence

Coming soon -

- Mentoring and Prayer Partners
- Inviting Guests
- Healing Prayer Opportunities