

# the **conversation** project

## Hosting and Organizing Events for Faith Communities

Faith communities are natural environments for talking about tender and vital topics related to illness and wishes for care through the end of life. People gathering in familiar places with people they know and trust seem open and willing to talk about mortal matters. With guidance from their faith leaders, members are better prepared to embrace the reality of their mortality. With education, appropriate tools, encouragement and support, faith communities are strengthened to share their wishes and give people who matter most to us the gift of knowing what matters most to them when it comes to care through the end of life. [The Conversation Project](#) (TCP) is able to reach diverse populations where they live and pray and gather. Virtually or in person, hosting events at various spaces of worship is one of the best ways to get the message of TCP out to a lot of individuals who share similar values.

## Tips For hosting TCP events in faith communities

- **Embrace the time you are given.** We have found that we can have meaningful presentations and conversations on TCP in just 5, 10, or 15 minutes. However, if the community calendar permits, when scheduling a [Conversation Starter Guide](#) workshop, 75-90 minutes is ideal as it allows for group conversation.
- **Invite a faith leader or member** (or other recognized teachers, scholars, or ethicists) from your faith community to offer a brief theological context for the importance of having these crucial conversations as part of your program. For example, we have noticed that when clergy preach or teach about The Conversation Project at a service in advance of a Starter Guide workshop, attendance at the workshop increases.
- **Split up the couples.** We've found that it can be helpful to split up couples when walking through [The Conversation Starter Guide](#). People need time to think through their answers about what matters to them about care. Talking about specifics can be easier to do first with a friend--or even with a stranger--than with partner.
- Suggest to **offer a follow up session 2-6 weeks later** so people can come back together to share how The Conversation went (or didn't go). A second session provides folks with an opportunity to be accountable for having The Conversation by specific date, as well as a space for processing their experience and getting support to keep going.

Having Conversations unleashes **lots of questions** about next steps and forms. If you'd like to get more involved, we encourage you to first check out our [Getting Started Guide for Congregations](#). Additional resources are available on our [Faith Resources Page](#). We also have a plethora of free community resources that you can use and adapt on our [Community Resources Page](#), such as a [6 Step Road Map for Hosting an Event](#) to introduce TCP and resources to your community.