

## Resources for Virtual Gatherings

### Types of Platforms

- A. Zoom
- B. Facebook and Facebook Live
- C. Microsoft Teams
- D. Conference calls

At the mission center level, we use Zoom, as this platform was available when the pandemic began. It is easy to use, works with and without video capability, and has enhanced security features.

### Some Zoom Tips

1. You can register for a free Zoom account at [zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and start hosting immediately. The meeting time is limited to 40 minutes. A full license version costs \$150.00 per year for up to 100 participants and no time limit.
2. It works better to have one person host and perform administrative functions, and the president run the PowerPoint and/or music. Participants can also share their screen if set up this way in the meeting settings.
3. Instructions have been shared with current hosts showing how to turn on Subtitles. Check with Debbie for a copy of those instructions.
4. When starting a screen share, be sure to check the box for “Share sound” and “Optimize for video clip” if sharing a video. Also, as part of “Share sound”, there is a “Mono, or Stereo (High-fidelity)” option.
5. It’s the Music.
  - a. Youtube.com - Search for “Community of Christ Sings Steve Otteson” and you will find a list of hymns that have been recorded with words.
  - b. Youtube.com - Search for “Community of Christ Hymns” for other recordings.
  - c. Recorded church hymns – If you do not already have the audio recording of all the hymns, purchase a copy at Herald House:  
<https://www.heraldhouse.org/search?q=community+of+christ+sings>.
  - d. It can make for a better experience to have accompanied music. Somebody to sing along with. Peter Smith has recorded many of the hymns for use on Zoom services. Contact Peter for more information, [tinman71@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tinman71@tampabay.rr.com).
  - e. Live performance of music can work. Make sure the performer has a good microphone.

- f. Spotify and other streaming services. Review the words to make sure you are using current inclusive language. You will need to obtain permission to stream songs that are not covered by your streaming license.

### **Copyright License Requirements**

1. Streaming music requires an additional license. Contact OneLicense.net to add the streaming license to your current copyright license.
2. Check the list of covered songs at OneLicense.net to be sure the one you want to use is covered by the license.
3. To stream a YouTube video, the video must be in the Creative Commons. You can find this information just under the video's brief description by clicking on the words SHOW MORE. If the video is not in the Creative Commons you must obtain permission from the publisher to stream it.
4. For more information on streaming copyright laws, visit <https://www.cofchrist.org/podcasts-streaming-worship-services>.

### **Next Steps**

1. Join a Zoom service and participate if you have not already done so.
2. Find someone to host the Zoom meeting for you if you are not comfortable doing it yourself. If you are going to host, then find someone to preside.
3. Find a speaker – the world is your oyster. Be sure to get administrative approval from any outside Mission Center.
4. Find assistance for each part of the worship.
5. Select music and get permissions if needed. You may also want to create a PowerPoint.
6. Run a practice meeting with someone to try out the elements beforehand.
7. Learn more registering on Zoom.com for training classes and webinars. You can also go to Resources – Blog to view articles and to register for weekly email news updates.
8. You are ready to roll.

## **Facebook Basics**

1. Facebook Live is a good platform for worship, virtual sacraments, special services, or anytime you do not desire much input from participants. Viewers can type comments to the video only.
2. If you do not already have a congregation page on Facebook, you will need to visit this resource, covered in a previous Nuts & Bolts, about setting up a page or group:  
<https://www.cofchrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/Facebook-101.pdf>
3. Services can be shared via Facebook Live on a public page or private congregation group. Any photos shared need signed permission.
4. In general, a FB page is used to communicate with the general public and as such follows strict world church guidelines. A Facebook group is private to only those allowed to join. A group is a better place to communicate within the congregation.
5. Be sure to try out Facebook Live to learn how it works before trying to broadcast a service.

## **Conference Calls**

1. If video calls do not work for most of your group, try FreeConferenceCall.com to create a free account and use their platform to connect by phone only. This has worked well for groups that have a lot of international callers without video capability or that live in an area with weak internet coverage.

## **Other Ways to Stay Connected**

- A. Good old-fashioned phone call – best for one on one conversation
- B. Text
- C. 50 Creative Congregational Connections During COVID (see additional handout)