

SHARING FAITH DINNERS

Thursday, April 26, 6:30-9:30 pm

Questions & Answers

What are the Sharing Faith Dinners? An evening of small group conversations, beginning with a simple meal, in parishioner homes across the Diocese.

Can the dinners be at the church? Yes, a host may register his or her dinner location with the church address.

What is the purpose? The Dinners are designed for Episcopalians to gather over a simple meal, get to know each other and share faith stories based on questions provided by a moderator. The process of sharing our own personal faith story helps us to deepen our own faith, and hearing others' stories of God's presence in their lives brings us into deeper relationship with each other.

Who will attend? This is a diocesan-wide event to take place on Thursday, April 26. All parishes and missions are encouraged to participate to make this a shared experience for Diocese of Texas Episcopalians.

Dinner Coordinators and clergy will invite members of their congregation to attend and to register online for a dinner, selected by location (address). Attendees at a dinner might be members from different Episcopal churches, and this will be encouraged in the urban areas. Friends of parishioners are always welcome - - this first dinner is designed primarily for Episcopalians, and future dinners will be an opportunity for Episcopalians to invite our neighbors once we have this initial experience together.

Will the dinners be offered in Spanish? To assist our congregations within the diocese who are largely Spanish speaking, the questions will be provided in both English and Spanish.

Are there promotional materials? Yes, flyers and bulletin inserts are available on the diocesan website at www.epicenter.org/sharingfaith.

How are hosts selected? Clergy and Dinner Coordinators identify hosts from each church. Each church is recommended to identify the same number of hosts and moderators from their church, even though they won't necessarily be teaming at the same location.

How many Hosts are needed? The suggested number of host homes is based on the average Sunday attendance of the church. The suggested number of hosts per church is as follows:

- Little Church Club (1-35 ASA* in rural area): 1
- Family (1-75 ASA): 1-2
- Pastoral (76-150 ASA) 3-5
- Transitional (151-225 ASA): 5-7
- Program (226-450 ASA): 10-12
- Resource (451+ ASA): 15+

What is the role of the host?

- a) Hospitality
- b) Provide the location (home, church, meeting space)
- c) Provide a simple meal for themselves, the moderator and 8-12 participants
- d) To be able to communicate by email

Can a host or moderator be a priest? Sure

Can a host also be a moderator? We recommend that the host not also take on the role of the moderator. It is best if the host focuses on hospitality and the moderator facilitates the evening.

Can the Dinner Coordinator be a host or a moderator? Yes

How do hosts register? Dinner Coordinators will provide a link (URL) for hosts to register their locations online.

How do moderators register? Dinner coordinators will provide a link (URL) for moderators to register and select online the location of the dinner they would like to moderate.

How do participants register? When participant registration begins on March 1, Episcopalians will register online at www.epicenter.org/sharingfaith/. Participants without access to email will need to be registered by their church's Dinner Coordinator.

What are the online registration dates?

- Host Location online registration: through March 9
- Moderator online registration: February 12-April 1
- Participant registration: March 1-April 16

How and when will Moderators be trained? Three types of moderator training are being offered:

- Written moderator training document emailed to moderators at registration
- Online video available on www.epicenter.org/sharingfaith/ on February 12 that may be viewed at any time
- Conference call Q&A sessions offered three times during April. Registration for these conference calls will be available on April 1 via email.

How will the dinner conversation materials be distributed? Materials for the dinners, including the set of question cards, will be mailed to Dinner Coordinators at their church address the first week of April (one packet for each dinner). Dinner Coordinators are responsible for delivering the packets to hosts before the event. We ask that the host not open the packets but have them available for the moderator when he or she arrives for the evening.

Additional questions? Please contact Gail McGuire at gmcguire@epicenter.org or the Rev. Gena Davis at 713.666.1408, Grace, Houston.