



## Program Overview

Our world needs models of healthy adult roles and relationships. Not all that long ago, mentoring was the chief learning process in our society. Even today, mentoring-type connections can still bond people and generations together. Furthermore, with mutual mentoring, both participants can contribute ideas as well as learn from the experience of one another, regardless of age or title. With a more generous idea of sharing thoughts and wisdom, people mature in conversation together while also overcoming the increasing effects of isolation.

### WHAT IS A “PATIO CHAT” RELATIONSHIP?

A Patio Chat partnership is a comfortable but intentional shared conversation between mutual mentors. The goal is to connect two people and turn their two internal monologues into a rich dialogue. These conversations can be casual, practical and/or spiritual in nature.

### WHERE DO PATIO CHATS TAKE PLACE?

The setting for a Patio Chat is any “patio” setting such as: a front porch patio; a backyard patio; a restaurant patio; a fire pit, even a “virtual patio” online. The bottom line is that a good place for having a Patio Chat can be any place where two people are comfortable to speak from the heart.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF A PATIO CHAT PARTNER:

A teachable spirit ([John 13:12-17](#)) Are you able to learn things from others? Are you open to seeing how God might develop you on a deeper level?

Servant leader ([Philippians 2](#)) Do you humbly serve others? Is there any part of mutual mentoring that you might be too proud to do or say?

Honest discernment ([Ephesians 4:15](#)) Are you able to speak the truth in love? Can you identify areas of growth in yourself? Are you able to humbly and gently exhort others?

Motivated by God ([Colossians 3:23](#)) Is your motivation to “chat” pure? Do you have desires of self-promotion or other ulterior motives?

Time commitment ([Matthew 5:37](#)) Are you willing to be consistent with this commitment? Can you say “yes” to this even though it may mean saying “no” to other things?

Listening and encouraging (Galatians 6:2) – Are you willing to be an active listener and encourager? Are you willing to pay close attention to what God is doing in someone’s life and then encourage them?

## **WHAT’S NEXT? HOW DO I GET STARTED?**

Pray. Perhaps God has already placed someone on your heart that might be a potential match for an interesting and ongoing Patio Chat relationship. Next, men contact [Brett Hurst](#) (bhurst@mdpc.org) at 713-490-0930. Women contact [Amanda Grace Caldwell](#) (acaldwell@mdpc.org) at 713-490-0931. They will help identify healthy Patio Chat connections.

## **WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL STEPS?**

Different types of Patio Chats will look different, depending upon the unique circumstances. We have put together a tip sheet of guidelines and best practices to help encourage you moving forward.

## **FURTHER QUESTIONS?**

Contact [Brett Hurst](#) (bhurst@mdpc.org) at 713-490-0930.