



## Best Practices & Other Things

### IS THIS A PROGRAM?

No, not at all. Patio Chats are simply intentional relationships designed to connect people and encourage spiritual and personal growth.

### HOW LONG IS THE COMMITMENT?

We suggest either a three, six, or 12-month commitment of time. We also suggest meeting one-two times per month.

### AS YOU SELECT YOUR PATIO CHAT PARTNER, CONSIDER THIS

- Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)
- Consult the Relationships Staff for input on potential pairing.
- Let us know if you already have someone in mind.
- Partners do not have to be MDPC members.
- The priority is that the relationship be logical and effective for mutual growth.
- Remember that confidentiality is key in these conversations.

### SCHEDULING

Both partners should agree on when and where the best times to visit together. The key is to be flexible. Any “patio” setting will do! Think creatively.

### INVEST IN ONE ANOTHER SPIRITUALLY

You might choose to read a Christian book together. It might be helpful to process emotions and thoughts related to the content. Was someone in Scripture involved in a similar situation? How is your prayer life right now? Are you growing closer to Christ? Could that relationship go deeper? Be transparent in your conversations. Remember that the Holy Spirit is the One who initiates and guides our growth. We follow.

## **INTENTIONAL MINISTRY ROLES**

You might consider developing another servant leader in a key area, such as Men's Ministries or Outreach. Share your relevant ministry experience so others might grow. Transition stages in this kind of a relationship might look like this:

- (1) I work, you watch.
- (2) You work with me.
- (3) I work with you.
- (4) You work, I watch.

## **UH, OH...THERE'S NO CHEMISTRY!**

That's okay. No process fits all people. Sometimes certain pairings don't "gel". If a personal connection doesn't work, it doesn't work. If for any reason, your pairing is not a good fit, let us know and we can suggest an alternative solution.

## **THINGS ARE GOING WELL...WHAT IF WE WANT TO CONTINUE?**

By all means, keep going! Also, if you have the time, you might also want to consider additional Patio Chats with others. Our culture is starving for encouragement and personal development.

## **FURTHER QUESTIONS?**

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