

Chapter Turnaround Partnership Gathering

This is a resource for staff or staff directors as they lead students and volunteers to begin the journey of turnaround. It's meant to give visibility to places of joy and sorrow in the chapter's history in order to help the group move together into a new beginning. The best partnership gatherings include staff, students and alumni as well as any current or potential volunteers and prayer intercessors, so planning far enough out to invite broadly is recommended.

Activity	Time
Welcome, gather and introduce. Give space to allow people to arrive, get acquainted and then make space for everyone to introduce themselves. Consider providing food or snacks.	Flexible
Create a timeline of the mighty acts of God to celebrate and communally put this story together. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a timeline from the start of the chapter to today, leaving space between each month, year or stage, depending on how long the timeline is. Feel free to prepare some ahead of time (e.g., "1989: Chapter planted"). • Review your calendar to prompt your memory about what happened at each stage. You can also contact alumni from previous eras to share memories via email if they can't physically attend. • Note places where things went differently than expected. Is there something to mourn? Something to celebrate? Tell the story. 	15min
Prepare for change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write sticky notes and place them under reach of these categories: "What's ending in our current way of doing things?" "What's unknown about getting to this next stage?" "What will the new stage look like?" • Next, Invite someone to read Psalm 126 and share this brief introduction: • <i>This psalm was sung as religious pilgrims made their way to Jerusalem for the three annual festivals held there. Pilgrimage psalms help us think about a physical journey as a representation of a spiritual journey. Just like a physical journey, our spiritual journey can contain experiences of both joy and difficulty; excitement as well as fear or discouragement.</i> • As you listen to the psalm, ask God to help you to rest and be at peace in his presence. Think about the journey your group has been on. Where has God been active? Where has he seemed absent? • Have the reader of the psalm pause and then read it a second time. Listen for what God is calling your attention to: a word, phrase or image. • Pause once more and then read it a third and final time. Ask God for what's significant about the word, phrase or image he gave you in the psalm. 	20min
Take turns sharing what you are each hearing from God or what you have felt directed to reflect on. It's helpful in situations like this to offer what you're hearing tentatively and with humility: "I wonder if God is inviting us to..."	10min
What would we say God has done in our group in a sentence or two? What is he inviting us to do next as a group?	10min
Use a sign-up sheet to collect interest in different needed roles such as serving on an intercessory prayer team, serving as a volunteer (learning to lead or support a student SG, being willing to generally support the group through meals, rides, etc.	5min
TOTAL	60min