

Hybrid Zoom Meeting Washington DC – Sundays

When DC shut down due to the pandemic, the Sunday meeting at St. Margaret's, like many other meetings, transitioned to Zoom.

In 2021, when DC opened up, the decision was made to re-open the in-person meeting but continue to use Zoom for the cohesiveness of the group. The meeting referenced the Region 7 Zoom guidelines and expected that the hybrid meeting would be a temporary bridge. However, they have found that this hybrid arrangement suits them. People who come in person have the option for fellowship. Speakers from out of town can share their stories via Zoom. The group feels that this arrangement is the most inclusive of the needs of its members.

This hybrid model was not without some logistical challenges, which were worked out over time. A new service position was created to designate a person to open the church and bring a computer. The chair's responsibilities expanded to being the Zoom host. Different seating configurations were tested in order to improve the audio in the room for the attendees on Zoom. For example, at first a chair was placed beside the computer for those who are sharing/speaking. Now the room attendees sit in a half circle facing the computer, which is sufficient for the size of the group.

The current challenges are getting volunteers to fill service positions on a three-month rotation; and growing a greater commitment to attend in person. Pre-Covid, attendance at the meeting was about 15-18 people. With the hybrid model, attendance is about 9 people online, and 3 in person.

Overall, the attendees are satisfied with how the meeting addresses the needs of the group. Over past year, there has been an uptick in the attendance in the room. People are getting used to having a computer in the room. Members are participating, have become more flexible and are learning to adapt.

Most of all, this group has demonstrated persistence and commitment to recovery. To the newcomer, their message is "don't quit before the miracle happens."

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