



Dinner Dialogue Guests: FAQs

Thank you for registering as a guest for the Amazing Faiths Project Dinner Dialogue in your area. Below are some FAQs about being a guest at one of the dinner dialogues. Please feel free to contact your community organizers with any other concerns or questions you may have.

1. How are guests recruited?

Local organizers spread the word about the Dinner Dialogue through regular networks and channels in your area. People sign themselves up as either guests or hosts after hearing about the event.

2. What religions are represented at the Dinner Dialogues?

Dozens of religions are represented in the guests, hosts and moderators of the Dinner Dialogues, including: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, Universalism, Daoism, Baha'i, Scientology, Wicca, Latter Days Saints (Mormons), Druze, Zoroastrianism and many others. The Amazing Faiths Project is a faith-neutral initiative and welcomes people of all faiths and no faith, including atheists and agnostics.

4. Will I know anyone else at the dinner?

You are allowed to register one (1) person to bring with you when you sign up for the dinner. Other than that, you probably will not know anyone else at the dinner. Most guests will be meeting each other for the first time at the table. The purpose of the Dinner Dialogue is to connect people from different faith perspectives who would not otherwise know or meet each other. This requires that the dinner event be comprised of people who are mostly strangers.

5. What will happen at the dinner?

The event will last about 3 hours total. During that time, you will share a meal together and have a guided conversation about the role of faith or spirituality in your life. The conversation is led by a trained moderator and is conducted using customized "dialogue cards" created by the Amazing Faiths Project. Each guest draws a question, answers that question as best they can, and then listens quietly while others answer their questions. The event uses a "no interruptions" format during this part of the dinner - that is, no one is allowed to interrupt you while you speak or to make a comment afterward, nor are you allowed to interrupt or make comments while or after others speak. The bulk of your time will be spent listening to the sharing of others. Guests will have a chance to visit freely and more "naturally" without moderation later in the evening.

6. Will anyone try to convert me to a religion or to a particular viewpoint?

No. All forms of proselytizing and evangelizing are prohibited at Amazing Faiths Project Dinner Dialogues. All moderators are trained to intervene to stop this behavior immediately if it happens. Everyone will be treated equally with respect and no one will be coerced to any viewpoint whatsoever.

7. Do I need to prepare to make a presentation about my religion?

No. In fact, no one will be allowed to make such presentations even if they want to. Do not plan to make a presentation or pass out any brochures or materials about your faith or worldview. The conversation for



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nearly the entire evening is focused exclusively on the exchange generated by the questions on the dialogue cards.

8. Why are the dinners moderated?

Religion and spirituality are deeply felt subjects for most people and, therefore, can be volatile topics for discussion in groups. Moderation helps guests feel safe and affirmed during the event, especially since they are sharing dinner and conversation with people they've never met before. The moderators keep the event "on track" in terms of content and on schedule in terms of timing.

9. How are the moderators chosen and trained?

Local organizers choose people in your community who have a reputation for being skilled group facilitators. All moderators undergo training provided by the Amazing Faiths Project; they read a manual and watch training videos.

10. How are the questions chosen on the dialogue cards?

The questions on the dialogue cards have been designed and re-designed for over three years now. They are designed to be general enough that anyone, no matter their faith perspective, can answer them. You do not need to prepare or "study" for these questions. They are designed simply to have you speak from your heart about things related to your faith and/or worldview. Everyone at the table gets a different question, and no one knows the question they will get until the moment they get it. But these are questions that anyone can answer by simply speaking from the heart. And remember, no one will interrupt you or make a comment afterwards; everyone will simply listen to you as you share. The larger goal is deep sharing and deep listening on issues that have nearly universal appeal and import.

11. What happens after the dinner dialogue is over?

Many groups continue to meet with each other socially in the weeks and months after the dinner dialogue. There is the option to exchange contact information after the dinner. Many people choose to attend other events throughout the year sponsored by the local organizers of the dinner dialogues. Still others choose to not stay in touch with the people they met at the dinner. It's entirely up to you and your group if and how you wish to continue your relationships.

For more information, please contact:

Jenni Reinke, Amazing Faiths Program Manager
Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee
www.interfaithconference.org
5409 W. Vliet St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
414-276-9050 (p)
414-258-9030 (f)
jennir@interfaithconference.org
Office hours: Wednesday and Friday afternoons