



# Contemplative Outreach

## STARTING A NEW CHAPTER

Thank-you for your interest in forming a Contemplative Outreach (CO) chapter. These guidelines will help you get started in forming a new chapter with a coordinating team. A Chapter Support Team member is available to help with the process. Email Marie Howard at [mrhfamlife@aol.com](mailto:mrhfamlife@aol.com).

The purpose of a chapter is to:

1. offer the Centering Prayer Introductory Program.
2. form Centering Prayer groups.
3. provide support to Centering Prayer groups and their facilitators.

### Terms:

*Chapter:* A Contemplative Outreach chapter is a contemplative community initially formed by a small group of people interested in sharing Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer groups that are formed in the area make up a chapter. The chapter provides support and enrichment to the prayer groups.

Over time, as Centering Prayer groups form and grow, volunteers may wish to work together to form a chapter with a coordinating team. Each chapter operates according to the [CO Vision, Theological Principles and Guidelines for Contemplative Outreach Service](#).

The presentation of the essential elements of the Centering Prayer method with its immediate conceptual background and the formation of Centering Prayer groups take priority in chapter program planning in order to ensure the integrity of the Centering Prayer practice. Refer to this article, ["The Integrity of Teaching of the Centering Prayer Method."](#)

*Coordinator:* A coordinator serves along with a coordinating team:

- who share the [Vision, Theological Principles and Guidelines for Contemplative Outreach Service](#).
- who all are committed to a personal practice of Centering Prayer.

The Coordinator:

- serves a term of three years (renewable).

- shares the gift of Centering Prayer.
- serves with the coordinating team collaboratively.
- makes decisions based on consensus.

For more information about a coordinator: ["Role of the Coordinator/Coordinating Team"](#)

For more information about decisions based on consensus: ["A Process for Facilitating Group Consensus"](#).

*Coordinating Team:* Team members provide collaborative leadership and empower others to belong and participate. Areas of service for beginning chapters include offering the Centering Prayer Introductory Program, along with facilitator and prayer group support.

Further guidance and materials are available by emailing Marie Howard, [mrhfamlife@aol.com](mailto:mrhfamlife@aol.com).

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