

ZOOM SUGGESTIONS FOR CHOIRS

From Emily Floyd

- People need to see the faces of their fellow choir members & choir director and “check-in” with one another. Zoom is a great tool for that.
- Zoom is not a good tool for singing together.
- Practice with a friend to become familiar with the technology before leading a zoom meet-up with your choir.
- Before your first official meet-up, offer a tutorial for using zoom, especially for adult choir members who have never used the tool before. Teenagers will use the technology without fear and with no problem.
- Decide what you are trying to accomplish through the online meet-up.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. How do you want to use your “voice” to minister to the singers/choir parents?
2. Think about how to establish procedures/operations for the group during the meeting, especially if the group is large.
3. Decide if you want a few choir members (leaders/officers) to share in leading the group.
4. Think about what you want to accomplish during the meet-up. Come up with an agenda, and make a cheat sheet for yourself so that the meeting doesn’t become unfocused.

GETTING STARTED

Create a zoom account for yourself by visiting www.zoom.us

Watch several tutorials about hosting a meeting through zoom on youtube.

Create a meeting first with a friend, and then create one for your group.

I suggest keeping the meeting default settings.

Use the instructions below to invite your choir to the zoom meet-up:

- Go to www.zoom.us
- Click on “join a meeting”
- Enter the meeting ID: XXX-XXX-XXX

SUGGESTED MEETING AGENDA:

-**Welcome** from choir director

Recognize the significant role of music, and acknowledge that it’s difficult to be separated and unable to make music together in the same room. Validate that the congregation is missing the choir.

-**Establishing procedures:** 1. Mute/Unmute 2. Speaker/Gallery View 3. Participants – raise hand & yes/no

Make sure everyone is muted. For large groups, use “hand raise” to indicate that you want to speak.

-**Check-in** with everyone

“What have been some unexpected blessings and what have been some challenges? When/if you have something to share, raise your hand and I’ll call on you.”

-**Scripture reading**, led by a choir officer

-**Prayer**, by a choir officer

-**Sing** - mute everyone and attempt to sing something familiar (a heart song, something which requires no printed music)

-**What’s next?**

“If you would like to meet again next week during our rehearsal time, please select yes.”

Describe the responses that you see. Affirm that people want to meet again.

“We will continue to model to others that we are abiding by the recommendations of the CDC and our government, so it’s necessary to hold off on rehearsals on hold for a while longer. Please look for an email from me about our next meet-up through zoom.”

-**Wrap-up**

“Continue to recognize those unexpected blessings this week, and I hope you will join us online for worship on Sunday morning.”

Wave goodbye and click “stop video”.