

Convening

The leadership team regularly convenes church leaders for communication, building relationships, identifying needs and resources, and cultivating collaboration.

Format

Coalition gatherings take multiple forms, such as in-person or video conferencing. The leadership team and/or participants identify the form and rhythm that fits the coalition.

Participants and Sub-Groups

Gathering participants are representatives of participating churches, often pastors, staff, or members, and are typically called “response coordinators.” Sub-groups of participants defined by geography, language, etc., may gather periodically as part of the larger coalition gathering.

Rhythm

The coalition and leadership team decide when and how to gather. We recommended that coalitions gather with an annual rhythm, with a combination of in-person and virtual gatherings. The rhythm may include seasonal gatherings such as hurricane season preparations or fundraising. *Examples of annual rhythms can be found in the “Convening: Annual Rhythm” section.*

Content

We have found that gatherings are most effective when they focus primarily on developing relationships, identifying needs and resources in the community, and exploring collaborative solutions. The leadership team ensures that agendas for gatherings are relevant and well-moderated. *Sample agendas may be found on the “Convening: Regular Gathering Agendas” section.* We recommended that notes from gatherings be distributed to coalition participants.

Ongoing Communication

The leadership team also sets up a group messaging application, such as GroupMe, for ongoing communication and in preparation for crisis response. *More information available in the “Leadership Team: Functions” section on “Communication.”*