ALTERNATIVE MEETING FORMATS

The ACA/ACoA/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Meeting Format available for download on ACEAnonymous.org is a sample meeting format. Groups may alter this format or create their own, to suit their needs. Some other types of formats are:

1. **Small groups.** After the speaker presents the topic, the group breaks into small groups (using Zoom or another online format or by counting off in in-person meetings), where there is time for individual discussion. Discussion might be about the presentation or about individual issues.
2. **Writing meetings.** Each member of the meeting writes for twenty minutes or so on a given topic or on one of the Steps as it relates to their recovery. Afterwards what has been written is shared with the group and read aloud.
3. **Subgroup meetings.** After opening the meeting together as a large group, the meeting divides into small brainstorming groups to discuss a societal dysfunction issue some members face that needs a group's united action to address. The smaller groups re-join at a certain time to end the meeting together.
4. **Speaker/Panel meetings.** The Leader shares for 10 minutes on a topic, then a Speaker shares for 20-30 minutes, followed by open sharing or three Speakers form a panel, one serves as Leader and shares for 10-15 minutes, then the others share for 10-15 minutes each and the rest of the meeting is used for open sharing.
5. **Step Study groups.** These groups emphasize the Twelve Steps as the topic of presentations and discussions. The emphasis is a matter of group preference. In book or tape discussion groups, by group decision, crosstalk may be OK to encourage the exchange of ideas. When the "no crosstalk" rules are modified, it is a good idea to make this known at the beginning of the meeting so that those participating will not be confused or surprised by the meeting's format.
6. **Alternative Opening Readings or Prayers:** While many groups open with the Serenity Prayer, then read the Steps and Traditions, it is OK to add other readings with the group's consent. Two examples below, with permission to copy, are provided by George of the Sydney Australia Sunday Lunchtime International ACA Group (2022) www.acalunchtime.com