

Key Takeaways

- The faith organizations that participated in the roundtable identified safety as a top concern.
- The most common question asked by the participants was: *“Can we ensure that we will not harm anyone by potential exposure to COVID-19?”*
- Many felt *“If we can’t ensure people’s safety, we won’t return until we can.”*
- Participants indicated concern about ensuring safety for large numbers of people during services and whether the worship services will feel same if certain religious, cultural, and social practices are stopped (hugging, touching, holding hands, singing, etc.)
- Some observed that precautions such as wearing masks, barring singing, no physical contact (hugging, holding hands) diminishes the value of in-person prayer.
- Participants showed interest in reconvening another roundtable, perhaps with more participants from a range of faiths, to *“look for more opportunities to work with different faiths”* and come up with universal, generally applicable solutions.
- Faith organizations want to continue working toward finding solutions to provide safety for their congregations.
- Several leaders noted they want to focus on marginalized populations, specifically the *“polarization within faith community where the marginal populations are neglected”*.
- Leaders are looking for more evidence-based strategies they can use to make in-person worship safe, and they indicated an interest in access to coordinated scientific expertise.
- Faiths are looking for a unified, trusted, coordinated leadership body for consistent recommendations and more guidance on faith gatherings.
- Participants look forward to involving a larger group of diverse faith leaders in future GHC3 roundtables.

