



UCRMN Workshop Format

Typical Format for UCRMN Zoom Workshops

Welcome and Intro from UCRMN: (2 Minutes)

- An Executive Member (President) welcomes participants.
- Then shares the purpose and mission of UCRMN.
 - Purpose (as per Logo) “Connecting Rural Stories with Rural People across Canada”
 - Mission (as per Webpage) “**Rural Ministry is unique**”. “We serve resilient, hopeful people, who love their church.” “We will share the successes, the opportunities and the culture of the Whole People of God of the Rural Church, throughout rural Canada, specifically in the United Church of Canada.” “In this, we invite ecumenical partners involved in rural ministry to join in the discussions.”

Worship: 5 minutes

- A short worship that relates to the theme (if possible). (typically as a slide show)
Suggestion:
 - Opening Prayer.
 - Scripture sentence or two.
 - Short reflection.
 - Verse or two of a hymn (with music – keep Zoom participant microphones off).

Workshop: 1 – 1-1/4 hour

- Brief Introduction of Presenter(s) by UCRMN Team.
- A longer introduction can be made by the presenter(s). This time is formatted by the Presenter(s).
- Introduction of topic.

Break Out Rooms:

- We have the ability for “Break Out Rooms” – 4 to 6 people per room. If the plenary is small, 10 people – we can discuss in plenary.
- The UCRMN Executive will act as Break Out Room Facilitators; to ensure everyone get to tell their story (as much as they are willing to share), and will take notes to report back to plenary. Break Out Rooms are a “sharing” or “story telling” experience. The person is sharing their experience – therefore everyone’s experience is valid. We are to listen: we are not to judge or offer advice, or try to fix it. The wisdom is found in the collective group (the facilitators will monitor this). Confidentiality – this is a safe place to share. Do not compare yourselves to others – we each have different gifts.

- Please allow 5 minutes in the first Break Out for people to introduce themselves to each other, then they can discuss the topic, or answer suggested questions.
- UCRMN understands “Rural” to be a culture – part of that culture is that rural folks learn and like to share by telling stories.
- You can have as many Break Out Rooms as you can fit into your time period. They can continue to be the same group, or can be shuffled with new participants each time.

Workshop “Finishing” Points:

- Please allow sufficient time for Break Out Rooms to share their wisdom or questions. We can also use the “Chat” to record additional responses.
- Try to plan to finish up workshop around the 1 hour mark – yet allowing extra time if needed. Keep the total Zoom Workshop time to no longer than 1-1/2 hours.

Close of Workshop:

- If it seems we need to do a follow up workshop – try to determine before the end – best to pick a date and time while people are online.
- We close with all participants opening their Zoom microphones, and everyone saying “The Lord’s Prayer” – any version, any language. This will be chaos, but God creates best with chaos.