



CHURCH CHATS

DO-IT-YOURSELF GUIDE

Alongside the new PBS docuseries *The Black Church*, produced by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., WFYI invites local church communities to conduct their own Church Chats. What's a Church Chat? It's an open-ended and warm conversation between two members of a faith community about the past, present and future of the church.

Whether you record them for yourself, your church archive or share them with StoryCorps (see our Tech Tips for more information), we hope this offers you with a special way to honor the Black church in your life.

TECH TIPS

It's easier than ever to record audio files. Most smartphones have good microphones and simple voice memo apps. Add to the national conversation by using the StoryCorp app. WFYI's friends at NPR StoryCorps have a free app, available at storycorps.org. If you record your interview, it can be archived in the Library of Congress, preserving important memories from your community.

SET THE STAGE

Church Chats rely on open conversation. Before you get started, consider the right place and time for sharing. Then, pick a comfy spot to talk, which these days may be over the phone. As you prepare to talk, take a moment to share your names, your histories with your church, and your plan. Then, ask each other questions to get started, but let the conversation flow wherever it takes you.

PERFECT PAIRS

Who should you chat with? The options are as wide as your congregation?

- Pair a new member with a longtime member.
- Host a conversation between a young congregant and a senior.
- Invite a senior pastor to chat with a junior pastor.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- What do you know about the history of our church?
- What is special about our church? Whether it is the community, the space, the songs or anything else?
- Let's walk through a normal service together and share our favorite moments.
- What is your favorite part of a service?
- What are some of your first memories of church? Is it the same or different from what you experience today?
- What role does music play within our church?
- What role does food play in our church community?
- Let's describe all the senses of our church – the smell, the look, the sounds, etc.
- How do you think church will change in the next 20, 50 or 100 years?
- What is your strongest memory of church – here or in another church space.