

Faith can be an integral part of everyday life for many people living with MS. However, the National MS Society is a secular organization, welcoming those of every faith and those who espouse none.

Society policy does allow for groups to have a specific focus. If a group chooses to have a specific faith-oriented focus, Society staff must state that clearly in any promotional materials for the group and inform any potential members of the nature of the group.

For groups not specifically promoted as faith-based, prayer should not be incorporated into the actual agenda of the meeting. By including faith-based activities within a general group meeting, the group runs the risk of alienating and/or excluding some members, which is in direct conflict with the Society's [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#) policies.

If members want to have a prayer component it should be an optional addendum to the meeting. Options would be:

- Invite group members to stay after the meeting for a prayer.
- Set a time before the start time of the meeting for a prayer.
- Have a moment of silence/time for personal contemplation/reflection at the start of the actual meeting.