

ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

January 2025

Please note: These are generalizations. As with all groups, commonalities and differences may exist among individuals.

RELIGION	HOUSE OF WORSHIP	POINT OF CONTACT	SPOKEN ADDRESS	PHYSICAL CONTACT	ATTIRE	DIETARY	OTHER
Black Church Protestant	Church, Cathedral, Tabernacle, or Temple	Pastor or Governing Committee	Reverend or Pastor	Handshake OK across sexes	N/A	Few restrictions or requirements. Ask dietary needs.	
Buddhist	Temple or Community Center	Temple Board of Directors or Community Center Executive Director	Venerable, Your Eminence, or Rinpoche	-Do not touch Monks or Nuns. -Anjali Greeting: Placing palms together and bowing head	Clothing is combination of culture and ethnicity, not religious requirement.	-Many are vegetarian. -Ask dietary needs. -Some fast on full moon and new moon days.	
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints (Mormon)	Meetinghouse, Chapel, or Church	Branch President or Ward Bishop	Bishop Elder (Male) Sister (Female)	Handshake OK across sexes	Members counseled to wear "Sunday Best"	Alcohol, caffeinated beverages, and tobacco not permitted.	
Evangelical Megachurch Protestant	Church	Senior Pastor	Pastor	Handshake OK across sexes	N/A	Few restrictions or requirements. Ask dietary needs.	
Latino Protestant	Church (English) Iglesia (Spanish)	Pastor or Governing Committee	Reverend or Pastor	Handshake, Hug, Cheek Kisses generally OK across sexes	N/A	Few restrictions or requirements. Ask dietary needs.	
Orthodox Christian	Church or Cathedral	Senior Parish Priest	Father	- Handshake OK across sexes -May exchange "kiss of peace" on both cheeks	N/A	-Many fast on Wednesdays and Fridays. -Fast=No red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, dairy, fish, oil, wine	
Protestant	Church	Pastor and Governing Committee	Reverend, Pastor, or Father	Handshake OK across sexes	N/A	Few restrictions or requirements. Ask dietary needs.	

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Roman Catholic	Church, Cathedral, or Basilica	Senior Parish Priest	Father or Deacon Brother (Monks) Sister (Nuns)	Handshake OK across sexes	N/A	Few restrictions or requirements. Ask dietary needs.	
Hindu	Temple	Temple Board of Directors	Swami (Male Priest) Swamini (Female Priest)	Avoid initiating physical contact. Namaste greeting: Bring palms together, slightly bow head, and state, "Namaste."	Females may wear long shirt and pant set and a Saree.	-Brahman diet: Vegetarian -Snacks should not contain gelatin, meat, meat byproducts, or lard. -Fasting is commonplace.	
Jewish	Synagogue or Temple	Synagogue or Community Center Board of Directors and/or Rabbi	Rabbi	Avoid initiating physical contact.	-Orthodox males wear skullcap (Kippah), hat/cap and fringes (tzitzit). -Married females wear wig (Sheitel) or head covering.	-Many avoid pork and shellfish. -Meat and dairy cannot be served together. -Kosher meat and fish only. -Food must be prepared with Kosher utensils/machinery	
Muslim	Masjid (Arabic) Mosque (English)	Masjid Executive Director or Imam	Imam	Avoid initiating physical contact.	-Males may wear small hat (Kufee) or turban, long robe, or long shirt and pant set. -Females may wear hijab and loose fitting clothing covering entire body except face, hands, and feet.	-Halal food permitted. -Haram food prohibited. -Halal=ritually slaughtered meat -Snacks should not contain gelatin, meat, meat byproducts, or lard. -If Halal is not available, serve vegetarian.	
Sikh	Gurdwara (Punjabi) Temple (English)	President of Board of Directors	Sardar Sahib (Male) Sardarani Sahiba (Female)	Handshake OK between sexes: May bring palms together at chest level and slightly bow head	-Punjabi or Western attire -Headdress: turban or thin head covering	-Mostly Vegetarian. -Halal and Kosher Meats and Alcohol are forbidden. -Snacks should not contain gelatin, meat, meat byproducts, lard.	Baptized Sikhs are required to wear a strapped, curved dagger (Kirpan: article of faith, not a weapon).

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