

First Meeting Agenda - Founders Version

(Remember to check [The Pondering Pub Overview Presentation](#) for examples of Ponderings if you need further clarity.)

Doors Open – This gives everyone an opportunity to meet with each other and build rapport before the meeting officially starts. The doors should open at least 30 minutes before the Pub starts. Some Pubs will have a dinner beforehand, others will engage in beverages, both of which take an hour or so. But most just have a 30 minute window for people to show up and chat.

Call to Order

Host gathers everyone together. She'll then give key household information, such as bathroom location and water, as well as any household rules.

The Pub Rep will then open the meeting by leading in prayer.

“Hello Everyone and welcome to the Pondering Pub. Let us Open in Prayer.”

Opening Prayer – This can be [found on the website](#) or you can write your own.

Explanation of will occur.

The Host or Pub Rep will be **explaining the concept** of The Pondering Pub to the attendees. **Below is the suggested method.** Frame the information by asking the questions, **showing the intro video, and then reading the below speech.** This will tailor your audience's expectations of what to expect from The Pondering Pub.

What is The Pondering Pub?

What is the mission. What is the vision. Where do we fit in?

What is the Pondering Pub?

Show [Intro video](#)

The Pondering Pub seeks to create Christian Communities that cultivate the arts. Art that reveals truth, cultivates beauty, and fosters goodness. By gathering in communities to meditate on these ends, eventually a spirit gets fostered that desires higher things. That spirit has been built by the entirety of that community and is shared by all the members of that community. When the individuals begin to see themselves as a whole, The Pondering Pub then empowers that whole to go out into the world and foster Truth, Beauty, and Goodness through means that leverage the strengths of an entire group, instead of just one individual. Either by creating artwork to go out and share with the world, or by going out into the world and inviting people in.

So what's the first step? The first step is by attending Ponderings. At Ponderings, we come together to share works of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness that we either came across or have created since the previous meeting. This can be sharing a song that struck you, a section of a book you want to share with others, or a snippet of a Podcast you've been listening to. Bring those things and share it with our group. Sharing art that's important to you creates an environment where art is commonly talked about, which is the first step in becoming an artist.

Eventually, each Ponderer will become an artist. By participating in The Pondering Pub, ponderers will transition from a consumer to a critic, and from a critic to an artist. This is far easier than it sounds, especially since we are made in the image of God, and the first thing we are told about God is in the Beginning, God creates.

Show video of “Inside the Pondering” (This is still being developed.)

Since we don’t yet have the video, explain how Ponderings work by giving the below speech:

Each week, we will meet to talk about art. We’ll initially give the floor to anyone who wants to share an ongoing artistic endeavor. Then, we’ll ask if anyone has an art piece they’d like to present. Eventually, we’ll have a monthly medium, such as poetry, and theme, such as childhood. Each presenter will stand up, talk about their artwork, then present their artwork, then lead a group discussion by asking questions.

The Pub Rep and Host will give examples of what can be presented at a Pondering. The first presentation will act as an artwork that someone’s been working on for a while. The second presentation will act as an artwork that someone came across and wants to share with others.

So, with that as a guide, let us begin our first Pondering Pub.

Beginning of a typical Pondering Pub.

“Inklings” Presentation.

The host or Pub Rep will present a piece designed to showcase the furthest end of the spectrum of “good work.” Ponderers should walk away with the understanding that The Pondering Pub is a place where good, quality, work can be created and shared.

An example of an Inklings Presentation can be found [here](#). The Ungrateful Son and other [inspiration outlet](#) presentations can be led by a presenter with minimal input on their part.

“Discovery” Presentation.

The other leader will present a piece designed to showcase a discovery piece. A discovery piece is a piece of art that a Ponderer discovers in their journeys that caused them to reflect inwardly or wrestle with God. Ponderers should walk away with the understanding that The Pondering Pub is a place where culture and current events can be examined in community and through a Christian lens, and art pieces are the medium with which we do so.

An example of a Discovery Presentation can be [this song](#). The presenter can lead discussion however they want. Here are a few questions to help prompt the conversation:

- The song suggests someone is pleading with Achilles not to give in. What role does community play in preventing spiritual or emotional collapse? Practically, how can we know when others are going through this, and what aid is actually effective in helping them?
- “Loathe the way they light candles in Rome, but love the sweet air of the votives.” Where do we experience this tension in the practice of our faith?
- Is there a moment in your life where you had an “Achilles come down” moment? In your career? Love life? Spiritual Journey?

Any other presentations.

If these presentations have inspired others to present, give them an opportunity to do so.

Set future goals.

At our next meeting, we’ll decide how frequently we want to meet and on what day, what we want our Pub to be known for and how it should feel, and we’ll be giving ourselves a name.

Schedule next Pondering.

End of Evening.