Forming a Virtual Reunion Group

A virtual reunion group is a great option for someone who is unable to travel to a group meeting regularly. Connecting virtually also allows you to form relationships with people outside your geographic area and expand the diversity of viewpoints.

Here are some high-level steps to starting a virtual group:

1. Identify what software you will use. A couple popular free apps are Skype and Google Hangouts – but there are others.
2. Determine if you will have a set or flexible meeting time.
    - A flexible meeting time may work better for busy, changing schedules.
3. Document a group agreement, or covenant.
    - The purpose of the covenant is to establish some accountable behaviors.
    - At your first meeting review the covenant and discuss any concerns or possible changes.
4. It is still possible to do group agape, you just may need to be creative. An alternative is to regularly contribute agape as individuals.
5. If you are open to new members, have your group listed on the MN Walk To Emmaus website.
6. Identify others to invite, possibly people you connected with on your pilgrim walk, while serving on a walk weekend, or at a Fourth Day gathering event.
    - Minimum size for a group is 2 – you and one other!
7. Once formed, ensure everyone has necessary contact information.

Sample group covenant:

- Be present and focused on the group:
    - Turn off other distractions – such as the television, radio, or other computer programs.
    - Minimize the impact of interruptions such phone calls and text messages.
- Be discreet:
    - Connecting virtually allows for you to connect from public locations, however please respect the privacy of the group and ensure the conversation cannot be overheard by others.
    - The group needs to feel safe to discuss personal details without risk of being over shared or subject to gossip.
    - If you are connecting from a public location, let the group know if there is a possibility of being overheard.
- Participate:
    - Attend regularly.
    - Contribute to the discussion.