

PRAYER GUIDE
30 DAYS PRIOR TO JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

DAY 30 – June 10, 2016

*With upright heart he tended them,
And guided them with skillful hand.
Psalm 78:22 (NRSV)*

Our United Methodist denomination is structured that a Bishop is appointed to lead our Conferences. Thirty days from today our Bishops will be traveling to gather in preparation for Jurisdictional Conference.

Romans 12 exhorts those with the leadership gift to lead with diligence. It is the empowering grace of the Holy Spirit that enables a leader to diligently “tend” and to “guide” in a manner that bears lasting fruit. The Holy Spirit infuses leaders with the humility, submission, courage and perseverance required to lead with a “skillful hand.”

Prayer: God, pour out your Spirit upon our Bishops as they lead our Conferences in Your ways. Be present with them during this preparation time for Jurisdictional Conference so that they may be assured that You are their guiding force and will gift them with all that is needed to lead us through the coming years. Also fill them with your grace, mercy and love so that they can be your instruments to guide us in Your ways. Be with them as they travel to Jurisdictional Conference so that they may arrive safely and be filled with renewed strength and energy.

DAY 29 – June 11, 2016

*From Him, the whole body, joined together by
every supporting ligament, grows and builds
itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)*

The theme of Jurisdictional Conference is “Quilted by Connection”.

May the Conference be filled with the reminder that although many different conferences are represented, they are connected by one God and have one goal.

Prayer: Lord God, you are the head of the United Methodist Church. You have quilted us together to be one body and one denomination. Delegates coming will have varying opinions and concerns. But you still are head of all. May a time of surrender to You be apparent through all the meetings, discussions and voting that will be done at Jurisdictional Conference.

DAY 28 – June 12, 2016

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Jurisdictional Conference will be held at the Lancaster Marriott. This hotel is used for many varying reasons. This property will belong to God from July 11 to 15.

Prayer: We pray boldly Lord that your presence would surround the Marriott in a powerful way. May all who enter from July 10 to July 15 sense You and You alone. May you clean this place out of all that is not of You and may all those who are a part of Jurisdictional Conference be given the gift of discernment so that they will be alert to the enemies prowling. We pray a covering over the grounds of the Lancaster Marriott because it will be holy ground for Jurisdictional conference. May your anointing be all over this place so that Your will and desire can be accomplished.

Day 27 – June 13, 2016

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 4:16)

At Jurisdictional Conference there will be opportunities for prayer, reflection, focus, devotion and communion.

Prayer: Lord, you have given us a desire to turn to You when we are hurting, when we need You to be a part of our lives in a different way, when we need to hear from You or just to be still in Your presence. Thank for the desire you have given to us for that. May the Prayer room and the places where times of devotion and communion take place be a place of peace. Convict your representatives to be a part of this and not to be wavering about participating. But call them deep within their heart to be a part of these ministries especially those who come in great need. May these places be a place of healing and miracles.

Day 26 – June 14, 2016

*By myself I can do nothing: I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.
John 5:30 (NIV)*

Jurisdictional conference delegates will be identifying the individual or individuals who will represent their Conferences as an Episcopal Candidate. May all the delegates be given the gift of wisdom as they discern the best people to represent our Conferences as an Episcopal candidate.

Prayer: Your word says “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” Lord, we are asking for your wisdom to be poured out on our delegates. May they receive Your wisdom to be able to know the best candidates for nominating as an Episcopal candidate. May they sense you in the process of discerning the right persons for Bishop.

DAY 25 – June 15, 2016

*Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing isn’t good.
You will end up totally wearing yourself out, both you and these people who are with you.
The work is too difficult for you. You can’t do it alone....
But you should also look among all the people for capable persons who respect God. They should be
trustworthy and not corrupt. Set these persons over the people as officers of groups of
thousands, hundred, fifties, and tens.... This will be much easier for you,
and they will share your load.
If you do this and God directs you, then you will be able to endure....”
Exodus 18_17-24 (CEB)*

Jurisdictional conference delegates are responsible for electing Bishops to replace the Bishops that retire in the Northeast jurisdiction.

Throughout the Scriptures the model for appropriately caring for people was that ministry was facilitated by a team of leadership. From Moses in the Old Testament to the disciples in the exploding New Testament church, responsibilities were delegated to those who had the capacity to lead. May the delegates accept the responsibility to lead in approving who is right for the position of Bishop. They desperately need the Holy Spirit to rest upon them supplying wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge and the fear of the Lord to discern and lead wisely for the sake of those whom they serve (Isaiah 11:2-5).

Prayer: Lord, God, pour out your Spirit upon our delegates giving them everything they need to discern the leadership of our conferences. Provide them with clarity and unity as they discern together God’s choice for leadership.

Day 24 – June 16, 2016

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be
prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers,
to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that
the body of Christ can be built up until we all reach unity
in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God
and become mature attaining to the whole measure
of the fullness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)*

Through Jurisdictional conference it is decided whether to affirm or reject the various assignments of Bishops in our Jurisdiction.

It is clear that the calling of Bishops, comes from God. It is God that has called them and it is God that will direct them and provide them with what they need to lead. May the Conference delegates hear from God who He desires to be head of each of the conferences.

Prayer: God provide all that is needed to our delegates while they discern who is called to lead in the conferences represented. May they continue to grow in their relationship with Christ and listen intently to His still voice as they discern the way they need to follow Your leading.

Day 23 – June 17, 2016

*And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
Ephesians 1:22 (NIV)*

Our Bishops are responsible for appointing people to various positions in our conferences.

May God lead our Bishops to appoint the correct people as District Superintendents and other leadership positions in our Conferences.

Prayer: God, speak clearly to our Bishops as they lead our Conferences. May they appoint people with wisdom and love of You to leadership positions. May they not fall into the trap of listening solely to the opinions of others but may they constantly be listening to Your voice as head of our Churches. May it always be the people You desire who are in positions of leadership in our churches.

Day 22 – June 18, 2016

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient bearing with one another in love.
Ephesians 4:1-2 (NIV)*

At Jurisdictional Conference new Bishops will be consecrated.

The calling of people into ministry goes back even to Old Testament times. God spoke and people responded. It is not always an easy calling but when the people responded, God moved powerfully in those lives.

Prayer: God continue to move powerfully in the lives of those responding to the call of Bishop. May those being Commissioned be anointed and filled to serve the clergy and people of God. May they always seek Your guidance and direction as they care for Your people.

Day 21 – June 19, 2016

*Now we ask you brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV)*

There will be many there who will be working behind the scenes and out in front to make sure conference runs smoothly. Many have devoted much time to make sure Conference runs smoothly.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for all of the participants at Jurisdictional Conference. Bless them for the work they are doing ahead of time and during the week that Conference is held.

Day 20 – June 20, 2016

*I am going to send you what my Father has promised but stay
in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.
Luke 24:49 (NIV)*

All the Bishops and delegates coming to Jurisdictional Conference have been promised to be clothed with power from on high.

Prayer: Lord, may Your presence fill the space where Holy Conferencing is to take place. May Your will be completed and not ours. May the resurrection power of Christ overshadow every Bishop and delegate to Conference clothing them with power from on high. May they be bold witnesses of Your love, grace and mercy.

Day 19 – June 21, 2016

*You were taught to put away your former way of life,
your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to
be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves
with the new self, created according to the likeness of
God in true righteousness and holiness.
Ephesians 4:22-24 (NRSV)*

All the delegates that will be coming to Jurisdictional Conference should be a reflection of Christ no matter what the agenda.

Prayer: Lord, may Your presence be reflected in the character and nature of the delegates who are to put away their former way of life and to clothe themselves in the likeness of God. May they each see Christ in each other being reminded of His love for each of them and their love for one another. May God have His way with each of the Bishops and delegates and make each of us more like Christ.

Day 18 – June 22, 2016

*For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for
an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because
we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen;
for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NRSV)*

It is easy to lose eternal perspective when the weight of the intensity of ministry rests heavy on us. When things do not go as planned or turn out as well as we were intending, discouragement and frustration knock at the door of our heart and mind. We choose not to let them enter by recalling the fact that as bad as all this seems, God is still in control.

Prayer: God, infuse your Bishops and delegates to Jurisdictional Conference with eternal perspective as they relate with and serve one another. Do not allow discouragement and frustration to knock at the door of the hearts and minds of your delegates and Bishops.

Day 17 – June 23, 2016

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen
2 Peter 3:18 (NRSV)*

God is the Alpha and the Omega. He was at the beginning and He will be at the end. In light of His omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence, we see how much we do not see and know. We are humbled by the fact that our infinite God chooses to reveal Himself to us as finite creatures. The truth is, we always have room to learn and to grow and therefore want to posture ourselves as students who want to embrace opportunities as learning experiences.

Prayer: God, we always have room to learn and to grow. Help all at conference posture themselves as students as they learn from You through the lives of others. Speak to their hearts as they learn so that the churches represented in our conferences will draw more people in to hear and learn about You.

Day 16 – June 24, 2016

*My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you
have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.
Take care that you yourselves are not tempted.
Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will
fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think
they are something, they deceive themselves.
Galatians 6:1-3 (NRSV)*

In the Scriptures, love and truth are bound together. II John invites us to walk in love *and* to walk in truth. When love and truth get out of balance, the door for relational carnage is opened. If truth is more important than love, and being "right" is primary, we confront error for the sake of restoring truth, regardless of relationship. If love is more important than truth and "loving" is primary, we end up not addressing areas that need correction for the sake of maintaining relationship. In the balance of love and truth, we can graciously address error in a spirit of gentleness for the sake of strengthening relationship.

Prayer: God, enable your Bishops and delegates to speak the truth in love and in a spirit of gentleness. May they be open to the opinions of all but discern Your truth in the decisions that need to be made.

Day 15 – June 25, 2016

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love,
any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my
joy complete; be of the same mind, having the same love, being
in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or
conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.
Philippians 2:1-3 (NRSV)*

Even though we know and are taught that “It’s all about You, Jesus,” the reality is that it is often “all about me.” My flesh often craves for the universe to revolve on the axis of “me.” This self-consumptive vortex eventually will implode spraying shrapnel on those around us. God’s invitation is for us to allow the Divine Chiropractor to adjust our lives to the example of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: God, it really is all about You. Help your Bishops and delegates to walk in the joy and in the humility of sacrificial service to others in Your name.

Day 14 – June 26, 2016

*You did not choose me but I chose you. And
I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,
So that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
John 15:16 (NRSV)*

Each church has a mission to bear fruit that will last. All the churches represented in our Jurisdiction are to be churches bearing fruit and bringing those in darkness into the light.

Prayer: Lord, help those who are at Conference, get excited about who You are and what You are doing. May each person there go back to their own churches and Districts and share that You are still the same. May our Bishops continue to be leaders who listen to You and follow Your word so that this denomination will begin to increase and not decrease. May they all be open to the ways You may be calling them and their churches to bear fruit in their community.

Day 13 – June 27, 2016

*You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus;
and what you have heard from me through many witnesses
entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.
2 Timothy 2:1-2 (NRSV)*

Paul reminded Timothy that the mentoring process was not just for him. What he was learning was to be entrusted to those who themselves would impart to others. What we learn and do in our ministry events is implemented in the life of the individuals and churches of our participants. Our prayer is that they, then, would carry on that ministry in discipleship of others.

Prayer: God, in our Holy Conferencing, show us how to most effectively model how what we are learning can be implemented in the local church setting. Give all of us a heart to intentionally impart what you have so graciously given us into the lives of others.

Day 12 – June 28, 2016

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)*

John Wesley said, "God's command to 'pray without ceasing' is founded on the necessity we have of His grace to preserve the life of God in the soul, which can no more subsist one moment without it, than the body can without air" (from *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* Chapter 11). Prayer is oxygen for the soul. It is vital communion with God in mutual dialogue. God's invitation is to breathe deeply!

Prayer: God ignite the hearts of the delegates and the churches with a fresh urgency to 'pray without ceasing' for every facet of our Conference and for one another.

Day 11 – June 29, 2016

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure;
then peace-loving, considerate submissive, full of
mercy and good fruit impartial and sincere.
Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.
James 3:17-18 (NIV)*

Pray for the Bishops and delegates as they prepare to come to Jurisdictional Conference. Ask that the Lord God will provide them with godly wisdom during this time of listening and preparation.

Prayer: God we lift up the Bishops and delegates as they prepare to come to Jurisdictional Conference. Draw them to You as they look at the agenda and make decisions that will impact people as well as churches. Provide them with Your wisdom so that all decisions during Conferencing will open up doors in churches to reach people who are lost.

Day 10 – June 30, 2016

*The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times,
"Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:10 (NIV)*

All need to have a listening ear and a servant's heart as they go to Jurisdictional Conference.

Prayer: God we lift up the Bishops and delegates that will be coming to Jurisdictional Conference. We pray that they will desire to listen to You about decisions that are to be made. We pray that they will desire to listen for Your voice only. May all who are attending be open to You and be able to say "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Day 9 – July 1, 2016

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Against such things there is no law. (NIV)
Galatians 5:22-23*

Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be manifest in the lives of the Bishops, delegates and all in attendance. May they increase in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness and self-control.

Prayer: Lord God, you have called these people to be a part of the United Methodist Church and this Jurisdictional Conference. May all who are there at Conference exhibit your fruit. May they desire an increase in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness and self-control toward one another and to those they come in contact with outside of our group.

Day 8 – July 2, 2016

*If you make the Most High your dwelling –
even the Lord, who is my refuge –
then no harm will befall you, no disaster
will come near your tent. For He will command
His angels concerning you to guard you in all
your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so
that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you
will trample the great lion and the serpent.
Psalm 91:9-13 (NIV)*

Pray that the Bishops and delegates will make the Lord Most High their dwelling place today. From this place of protection and security, help them to be free of all anxiety and worry.

Prayer: Lord we lift the Bishops and delegates up to you. Draw them to Yourself so that they see You as their dwelling place. From this place, free them from all anxiety and worry and place a covering of protection around them as they prepare to come to Jurisdictional Conference.

Day 7 – July 3, 2016

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing
to God –this is your spiritual act of worship.
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is
--his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)*

We are all called to offer our bodies to God as a living sacrifice. When we do, we are made stronger so that we can no longer conform to the world but will be transformed.

Prayer: Lord God, help us to offer ourselves up to you daily as a living sacrifice. May your Bishops and delegates be prepared to do this as well so that they can know what Your will is. Make your Bishops and delegates stronger so that they do not conform to what the world wants but will test and approve Your will not only for their lives but also for the life of the church and conference.

Day 6 – July 4, 2016

*Then Moses said to him, “If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.
Exodus 33:15 (NIV)*

We should desire God’s presence be a part of Jurisdictional Conference. Without Him we are nothing.

Prayer: God please go before our Bishops and delegation and saturate the Marriott with Your presence. May all who enter that first day sense Your presence in a powerful way. May they sense that they have entered Sacred space for purposes of this Conference.

Day 5 – July 5, 2016

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*

All delegates need to trust the Lord with all their hearts and not rely on their own insights as they make decisions on behalf of our jurisdiction.

Prayer: God help all the Bishops and delegates to trust you with all of their heart. May they all acknowledge who You are because they sense Your presence in that place. May they not lean on their own understanding as they make decisions that involve our churches.

Day 4 – July 6, 2016

*Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared.
This day is sacred to our Lord . Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.
Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)*

Some of the delegates will be leaving demanding schedules and will be anxious about those. And some of the delegates will also come to a demanding schedule of holy conferencing.

Prayer: God will you please be the joy of all the Bishops and delegates as they leave demanding schedules and enter into the schedule of conference. Remind all that it is Your joy that will get us through because You are our strength.

Day 3 – July 7, 2016

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)*

God can do more than we can ask or imagine in our denomination, in our local churches, in our conference. Do you believe that?

Prayer: Lord God we thank you that you can do more than all we ask or imagine. Forgive us when we don't believe that fully or fail to believe it at all. Please do a work at this Conference that is way bigger than we could ever imagine so that it will bring glory to Your Church throughout all the generations.

Day 2 – July 8, 2016

*...if my people, who are called by my name,
will humble themselves and pray and seek
my face and turn from their wicked ways,
then will I hear from heaven and will forgive
their sin and will heal their land.*

1 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

The United Methodist Church will only survive when the people accept a spirit of humility and prayer to permeate the ministry of the church.

Prayer: God would you please release a spirit of humility and prayer to the United Methodist Church that would permeate the ministries of the church. May the unity of prayer that was experienced during this time of praying for Jurisdictionall Conference continue within us and in our churches.

Day 1 – July 9, 2016

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:3

Voting will take place at Jurisdictional Conference. Opinions are expressed for both sides. This can be both a tense time in our process but also a joyful expression of what God is doing among us.

Prayer: God please be with all of the Bishops and delegates voting on various issues. Help them to trust You to overcome any sense of "winners and losers." Lord God will you please build a spirit of unity in the bonds of peace.