

**PRAYER GUIDE FOR  
COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD  
WEEK OF JANUARY 8 TO 14, 2017**

During the week of January 8, 2017, Eastern PA Conference has been asked to pray for the Commission on a Way Forward as they seek to discern the best way to move the United Methodist Church into the future.

Below is a prayer guide for you to use during this week. This is only a guide and you are encouraged to pray according to what the Holy Spirit lays on your heart.

In addition, there will be a Concert of Prayer (a concert of prayer involves a variety of elements, including Scripture readings, songs, testimonies, poetry and prayer) at Lima UMC, 209 N. Middletown Road, Lima, PA 19037 on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 PM for an opportunity for the Eastern PA conference to come together to pray for this Commission.

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**Sunday, January 8**

*“...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)*

As we begin a week of prayer let us humble ourselves before God and ask Him to forgive us for the ways we have not been a church pleasing to Him. We will only survive as a denomination when the people accept a spirit of humility and prayer to permeate the ministry of the church.

**Prayer:** God forgive us where we have not been a church that has shown Your love and mercy to those in our churches and in our communities around us. Help us to humble ourselves before you and seek Your direction, wisdom and knowledge to navigate the difficult waters that are ahead of us. May we be a people who is obedient to You and You alone.

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**Monday, January 9**

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3*

It is only by being in unity with the Spirit of God, listening to the Spirit’s voice, centered on God, that we will be united in our decisions. Then our decisions will come with a sense of peace that will bring us together in unity.

**Prayer:** Lord God, we come to you desiring unity and peace. We ask that you would speak to our hearts and those involved in the Commission so that unity will prevail and

not division. May we all come forward with a sense of peace that the right decisions will be made for our denomination.

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## Tuesday, January 10

*“And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them”  
Psalm 78:72*

The United Methodist Church is led by Bishops. May our Bishops be like David and shepherd us with integrity of heart and skillful hands. May their wisdom come from above and may they be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer:** Lord, we lift our Bishops up to you. May you invade their hearts in such a way that they can only desire to serve you with integrity and with the wisdom and knowledge they hear from You. Help them to be skillful leaders and obedient to what you place on their hearts for this denomination. Speak to them clearly, Lord.

We especially lift up the Bishops who will be serving on the Commission on a Way Forward. Help them to hear clearly from You what You desire for the denomination. (Pray for them individually):

Bishop Ciriaco Francisco (Phillippines)	Bishop Grant Hagiya (USA CA)
Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa (Africa Zimbabwe)	Bishop Gregory Palmer (USA OH)
Bishop Robert Schnase (USA TX)	Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett (USA AL)
Bishop Rosemarie Wenner (Germany)	Bishop John Wesley Yohanna (Africa Nigeria)

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## Wednesday, January 11

*“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. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”  
(Ephesians 4:1-3)*

God has called men and women into a life of serving through ordination. God has appointed them to serve in the church and outside in the world as leaders but has also called them to live a life worthy of the calling. May they be always open to God’s leading and direction and be prayerfully asking for God to speak to them so that they may respond in obedience.

**Prayer:** Lord we thank you for the calling into ordination that you have placed on men and women. We pray, that for as long as they serve You, that they will continue to grow deeper in their relationship with You. May they be open to Your voice and guidance and may you provide them with the gifts that they need to lead Your people.

We especially lift up those clergy who will be serving on the Commission on A Way Forward. Help them to hear clearly from You what You desire for the denomination. (Pray for them individually)

Rev. Jorge Acevedo (USA FL)  
Rev Tom Berlin (USA VA)  
Rev. Jessica LaGrone (USA KY)  
Rev. Julie Hager Love (USA KY)  
Rev. Casey Langley Orr (USA TX)  
Rev. Tom Salsgiver (USA PA)  
Rev. Alfiado S. Zunguza (Africa Mozambique)

Rev. Brian Adkins (USA CA)  
Rev. Helen Cunanan (Philippines)  
Rev. Thomas Lambrecht (USA TX)  
Rev. Mande Guy Muyombo (Africa DRC)  
Rev. Donna Pritchard (USA OR)  
Rev. Jasmine Ross Smothers (USA GA)

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## Thursday, January 12

*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4)*

God has called all of us to live a life of humility, tenderness and compassion towards others. He does not want us to follow our own ambitions but to be obedient to Him alone. May we all look to God for the help we need to live such a life.

**Prayer:** God thank you for who You are and all that you mean to us. Help us to be obedient to Your Word and Your calling on our lives to live in humility and considering others before ourselves. In a world where this is hard to do, help us in this area of our life to be more Christ-like toward others.

We especially lift up those laity who will be serving on the Commission on A Way Forward. Help them to hear clearly from You what You desire for the denomination. (Pray for them individually)

Jacques Umembudi Akasa (Africa DRC)  
David Field (Switzerland)  
Scott Johnson (USA NY)  
Mazvita Machinga (Africa Zimbabwe)  
Dave Nuckols (USA MN)  
Alice Williams (USA FL)

Matt Berryman (USA IL)  
Aka Dago-Akrib Hortense (Africa Cote d'Ivoire)  
Myungrae Kim Lee (USA NY)  
Patricia Miller (US IN)  
Leah Taylor (USA TX)

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## Friday, January 13

*“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)*

Our one desire should be to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and that all that we do will bring glory to Him. May the Commission be strong followers and lovers of Jesus as they discern what is the best way forward for our denomination.

**Prayer:** Lord, may we please be a people who desire to grow in all ways closer to You and to be desiring Your presence and plan for our lives. May all who are serving on the Commission on a Way Forward desire Your grace and knowledge as they discern and listen to You in discussions and making decisions. May all be open to Your voice and to listening intently to You in all the meetings that will take place.

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**Saturday, January 14**

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

God has chosen us all to bear fruit. May that be our desire. May we be a witness of good fruit to the world as decisions are made on behalf of our denomination.

**Prayer:** Lord God may we show the world that we are here to bear fruit, fruit that will last. May the decisions that are made align with Your Word and Your desire for us to bear fruit to a hurting world. May we solve our differences with grace and love and show the world that we can come together in peace. May we truly be a witness of love no matter what decisions are made. Help us to move from a place of disharmony to a place of unity and love. May Your Spirit be present in all of the meetings that take place and may that presence be a witness of Your love and grace to us.