

## **The Strategic Prayer Outreach Team (SPOT)**

has been newly established under Disciplemaking and Spiritual Growth in effort to encourage churches to be in prayer for their communities and their churches. The SPOT team is also supporting the Evangelism Initiative through the Administrative Commission for Transformation. Together, they are encouraging people to pray daily as churches discern their next steps for growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing the Gospel in their communities.



Our prayer is that pastors, elders and congregations will be seeking God's will for their communities, churches and the Presbytery as we move forward as disciples of Jesus Christ.

*Through prayer we have the gracious ability to draw near to God who gives us encouragement, grace, forgiveness and guidance.*



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## **A Call to Prayer for Our Church, Community, Nation & World**



## **Guidebook**

**For Starting and Revitalizing Prayer Groups  
in Your Church**

## A Call to Prayer



**Imagine** pastors, elders, and congregations boldly and unceasingly committed to praying for their churches.

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

James 5:16b

**Imagine** pastors, elders, and congregations faithfully seeking God’s will for their communities, nation and the world!

“Spiritual discernment is a prayerful, informed, and intentional effort to distinguish God’s voice from other voices that influence us.”

From **Grounded in God: Listening Hearts Discerning for Group Deliberations**  
by Farnham, Hull and McLean

**Imagine** a presbytery that is committed to praying for each one of its churches and pastors throughout the year.

*Our goal is not just praying more.  
It is to listen to God who leads us  
as Christ works in us and through us  
empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

## in Praying for God’s Purposes



6. The upcoming election will result in government leaders being prayerfully chosen to lead with integrity and honesty.
7. The partnerships between the churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery and the churches in the Synod of Blantyre (CCAP) in Malawi, Africa will continue to be partnerships of mutual encouragement in our faith and life journeys (Romans 1:12).
8. Pittsburgh Presbytery will experience God’s grace under the direction of the Rev. Bob Anderson (Interim Pastor to the Presbytery), and that the Pastor Nominating Committee will be led by the Holy Spirit in their search for the permanent Pastor to Presbytery.
9. The leaders of Pittsburgh Presbytery may seek God’s will in every aspect of their work during this time of transition:
  - ◆ Mission Agencies
  - ◆ Ministry Teams
  - ◆ Council
  - ◆ Presbytery
  - ◆ Committee on Ministry
  - ◆ Committee on Preparation for Ministry
10. Christ’s Church in all its diversity may show its unity for the sake of the Gospel.

*As you sit, walk or drive around the church, community or city  
this summer, whether it is daily or weekly,  
alone or with others, listen and pray.  
Saturate your daily activities with prayer.  
“Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us.”*

*Richard Foster*

# Join the Pittsburgh Presbytery

Please pray that:

1. Your church, pastor, leaders and congregation will dwell in Christ and in God's Word, and that your church community will be a place of praise, worship and fellowship in Spirit and in Truth.
2. Congregations will hear God's call to follow Jesus and be welcoming places of reconciliation, repentance and healing.
3. People will continue to honor God and to be witnesses for Christ in their communities and churches.
  - ♦ The hearts of people will be open to receive God's word distributed by CityReachers to thousands of people in the region.
  - ♦ Churches will be prepared and open to receiving people who are seeking fellowship and renewal in Christ.
4. The General Assembly commissioners will act "in humility and with love for each other, and will be in step with the spirit" (Galatians 5:25).
5. The Crestfield Camp and Conference Center staff and volunteers will have a safe and healthy ministry as they disciple and nurture hundreds of campers of all ages in a Christ-centered community.



*And as Jesus taught them, he said, "Is it not written: " 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?'"*  
*-Mark 11:17*

## What is Prayer?

Prayer is simply a two-way conversation with God, our Creator. We talk to God and God listens. God talks to us and we listen.

### Silence

"Be **still**, and **know** that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." -Psalm 46:10

- ♦ Prayers can be spoken, sung, silent and even sighs too deep for words.
- ♦ Prayer can be private or with small groups or with large groups in your church or community.
- ♦ Remember, prayer is developing a relationship with our God who loves you. (John 3:16)

### Adoration

"Great is the Lord and most worthy of **praise**; His greatness no one can fathom." -Psalm 145:3

### Confession

"In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" -Ephesians 1:7

### Thanksgiving

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be **thankful**." -Colossians 3:15

### Supplication

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will **receive**, and your joy will be complete." -John 16:24



## Discover the Power of Prayer Walking

Prayer walking involves people who are simply walking and talking quietly to God. They do not need to be obvious or the center of attention. Gather in groups of 2-3 for this powerful time of prayer.



As people are walking in the church, and around the church and community, they are simply silently praying for people in the church, neighborhood, community, nation and world.

It is not only about praying for everything going on, it is about praising and thanking God for the positive things also. While prayer walking our eyes, ears, feet, mouth and all our senses are open to God. What we need to pray for is right in front of us.

For more information see: [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) or [Prayer Walking](#)  
by Steven Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick

*“Prayerwalking is simply praying in the very places where you expect God to answer your prayers.”*

*What would Jesus Pray by Waymakers*

## 5 Amazing Ways for Starting or Revitalizing a Prayer Group

*A prayer group gives members something outside of and bigger than themselves for which to pray. Incorporating these key elements in your prayer group will create a tremendous sense of joy and unity.*

1. Encourage all members to know why they are meeting -- to pray for renewal in themselves, their church, community, nation and world.  
*This gives members purpose.*
2. Read or recite scripture during prayer.  
*This gives guidance and focus.*
3. Write down what the Lord is up to between prayer group meetings.  
*This gives excitement and anticipation.*
4. Listen to God, thanking and praising God for responding and working in the lives of members.  
*This deepens the relationship with God.*
5. Establish a ritual of starting and ending on time. Spend most of the time in prayer.  
*This creates discipline.*

*“A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening.”*

*Soren Kierkegaard*