Praying our Way Forward

Please, join in prayer for The United Methodist Church.

This prayer movement is in response to the Council of Bishops initiative called Praying Our Way Forward. We are called to pray for God’s leadership to guide us effectively in fulfilling the mission & unity of the church. Since General Conference 2016, our church has experienced conflict & has needed to consider “How can we show God’s great love and mercy to one another as we make decisions?” Prayer is the most significant and positive spiritual thing we can do at this important moment in the history of the United Methodist Church.

Before the Special Session of the General Conference begins in St. Louis on February 23-26, the entire United Methodist family (12 million United Methodists around the world) is called to pray for the 864 delegates & 200 alternates that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit in their conduct, their attitudes, and their decisions. The Committee on Reference has decided 78 petitions have been cleared for consideration aimed at helping The United Methodist Church stay unified despite deep conflict over homosexuality.

**In Praying Our Way Forward, we are to pray daily for the next two weeks from 2:23-2:26 (a.m. or p.m. = 4 minutes). Please pray that God will Reign and God's will be done in ALL the proceedings & decisions of the Special Session.**

The process and schedule established for the legislative gathering provides that Saturday, February 23 will be designated for prayer and preparation, with the culmination of Praying Our Way Forward, a worship service and education and training.

**We would like to join in prayer during this preparation day with having the BCUMC Prayer Room open for our Church’s Congregation to come in & out to pray as desired during the hours of 6:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.** (Our Prayer Room is located in the Wesley Building out by the parking lot & will have a Prayer Team Member available from 9am-4pm on Saturday, Feb. 23.)

The first official day of the session, Sunday, February 24, will be dedicated to organizational and administrative matters, the report from the Commission on a Way Forward and plenary discussion of the various plans to discern the direction the conference wants to pursue. On Monday, February 25, the body will go into legislative committee to consider, amend, and vote on petitions. As required by Par. 507.10, all proper petitions submitted to the General Conference will be voted on in the legislative committee. On Tuesday, February 26, the body would go back into plenary session for final voting, considering future directions and closing worship.

**We would like to cover the Special Session in prayer during the three day period (Feb. 24 – 26) by having a Volunteer Sign Up to offer prayer during a one-hour time slot during the hours of 6am to 6pm each day. Please call the BCUMC Office during office hours to sign up or email Linda Dunn at** [**lindadunn49@gmail.com**](mailto:lindadunn49@gmail.com)**. It will take 36 people to pray just to cover the time slots once! Hopefully, we will be able to cover it many times. In prayer we can be one in Christ.**