

# Guide for General Conference 2016 Prayer Vigil

*Compiled by The Upper Room and WPAUMC staff for a 30-60 minute prayer time.*

## Praying for the General Conference, the Elected Delegates and Alternates.

### SUGGESTED SUPPLIES□

It will be helpful to have a Bible, a cross, the United Methodist logo with the cross and flame, a globe or world map, paper and pens or pencils for writing, and a candle to light.

### BEGINNING YOUR TIME

When you are ready to begin, we encourage you to use these or similar words:

- I/We light this candle as a reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.  
□
- I/We place this cross is to remind us that we serve a risen Lord who is the head of the □church. □
- I/We place The United Methodist cross and flame to remind us that we were formed in 1969 from the union of two expressions of the Church universal, the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church (the two flames by the one cross).

### OPENING SCRIPTURE□

From the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verses 1-5.

*In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out.*  
John 1:1-5 CEV

Prayerfully reflect on this truth, that the Word—Jesus Christ—was with God and was God from the very beginning. Everything that “came into being” did so because the Word— Jesus—was involved in the creation of all things—all people—all planets—all solar systems—everything! We are one in Christ by creation and by redemption. Through our profession of faith in Christ and baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we are spiritually connected to one another. □

What prayers, songs or feelings or pictures come to you now as you reflect on the reality Jesus Christ is the creator, light and life of all people? *[Pause for two to five minutes to allow time to center ourselves in Christ, pray, sing and draw, etc.]*

Now, offer a prayer for yourself and for all your brothers and sisters in the United Methodist Church who have responded to the call to Christian discipleship. Open

yourself to this holy mystery of our oneness in Jesus Christ. Meditate on the spiritual reality that we are sisters and brothers. Pray that this deep and essential truth will undergird and guide all preparation for the General Conference, all the interactions during the General Conference and the commitments made at the General Conference. *[Pause three to five minutes for prayer, reflection and writing, etc.]*

Read this verse from John 1:14 CEB.

*The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us.*

Let the Holy Spirit help us consider anew the mystery of the incarnation, the cosmic Christ who was involved in all creation, now come to us as a baby—so vulnerable—so powerful—so unique. Consider Charles Wesley’s poetic reflection on the mystery of how the unique Word of God became flesh, “God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man.”

What prayer or thought comes to you now as you consider the mystery of the incarnation— God with us—the Word become flesh? *[Pause to reflect and pray. Feel free to write or draw. If there is a group, invite people to briefly tell about the thoughts and prayers that come to them today.]*

When you are ready, consider the character and content of the living Word of God who “became flesh and made his home among us...full of grace and truth.”

As you consider the essential nature of Jesus Christ—full of love, grace and truth—what prayer, song, feelings and pictures come to you now? *[Pause for two to five minutes to allow yourself to write or draw or pray the thoughts and feelings that come to you.]*

## **PRAYERS FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Study the picture and read the text on the next page. Consider the awesome responsibility of these 864 men and women from around the world, meeting for 11 days for worship, prayer and discussion in order to discern God’s will and direction for 13 million United Methodists. Pray for this assembly, its member and its leaders, as the Holy Spirit leads you to pray. *[Pause for a few minutes to do pray, reflect, write or draw.]*

# UNITED METHODISTS: A Connected Church



## OUR ORGANIZATION

The Constitution of The United Methodist Church is designed with checks and balances built into the structure to prevent any one branch from taking too much authority over the whole body.

Source: Originally published in *New World Outlook* magazine, September-October 2012, General Board of Global Ministries. Used by permission. Graphic designed by Christopher Coleman.

## **THE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

Now, take up the list containing the names of the lay and clergy delegates of your annual conference. If you wish, you can also pray for the delegates and alternates from your Jurisdiction or any of the other areas of the world, using the listing on the [WPAUMC 24-hour prayer vigil](#) (attached).

### **Lay Delegates to General Conference**

- Conference Lay Leader Sharon Gregory
- Nancy Denardo of Port Vue UMC
- Rich Hoffman of Charter Oak UMC
- Paul Morelli of Lakeside UMC in DuBois
- Diane Miller, president of the Conference United Methodist Women
- Vicki Stahlman, Conference Sessions Team Chair and member of Brookville Evangelical UMC

### **Clergy Delegates from Western PA**

- Eric Park, pastor of Butler First UMC
- Alyce Weaver Dunn, Johnstown District Superintendent
- Robert Zilhaber, pastor of Lakeside UMC in DuBois
- Amy Wagner, Conference director of Congregational Development and Revitalization
- William B. Meekins Jr., Assistant to the Bishop
- John Seth, pastor of Christ UMC in Youngwood

### **Lay Delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference**

- Don Blystone, Erie-Meadville Lay Leader
- Tina Whitehead, who serves as a volunteer missionary in Israel/Palestine
- Faith Geer of St. Paul's UMC in Allison Park
- Peggy Ward of Greenstone UMC in Pittsburgh
- Kayla Schwanke of Russell UMC in Kane District
- Tracy Merrick of First UMC in Pittsburgh
- Joe Emigh of Cochran UMC (alternate)
- Donna Burkhart of First UMC in Erie (alternate)
- Eric Duda of Lowville UMC (alternate)
- Conference Treasurer Larry Bridge (alternate)
- Richard Thomas of Port Vue UMC (alternate)
- Sydney Widdersheim of Christ Community UMC in Butler (alternate)

### **Clergy Delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference**

- Seth McPherson, associate pastor at Christ UMC in Bethel Park
- Sung Shik Chung, pastor of Otterbein UMC in Greensburg
- Gregory Cox, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries
- Randy Bain, pastor of Oakland UMC in Johnstown
- Stephanie Gottschalk, Conference Missions Coordinator
- John Ciampa, pastor of Harrison City Community UMC
- Pat Nelson, Greensburg District Superintendent (alternate)
- Tom Parkinson, pastor of Faith UMC in Fox Chapel (alternate)
- Butler District Supt. Joel Garrett (alternate)

- Joseph Stains, pastor of Mt. Hope UMC in South Fork (alternate)
- Janet Lord, Conference Coordinator of Ministerial Services (alternate)
- Thomas Strandburg, pastor of Mt. Lebanon UMC (alternate)

Pray for the delegates and alternates as the Holy Spirit leads you to pray.

*[Pause for a few minutes to do pray, reflect, write or draw.]*

### **THE WORLD**

The Church of Jesus Christ is a missionary church—engaged in God’s mission to seek and save the lost, the least and the lonely. If you have a globe or world map, prayerfully gaze at the world, imagine the seven billion people on it, and pray the prayer that God places on your heart.

Pray that God’s mission—to seek and to save the lost—will be the top priority of all Christians, in all churches, including the United Methodist Church around the world. *[Pause for a few minutes to do pray, reflect, write or draw. Be attentive and receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Are there particular people or places or situations in the world that you feel led to pray for now?]*

### **THANKSGIVING**

As you close your hour of prayer. Give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ—the Word of God become flesh—full of grace and truth. Give thanks to the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who sent the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us—teaching us everything that Jesus taught the first disciples.

If you feel led, you might want to conclude this hour with The Lord’s Prayer.

# 24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

[Developed by the Western PA AC in 12-hour format for use in both AM and PM]

## **12:00 – 12:30 – Pray for the North Central Jurisdiction Bishops**

- Dakotas Conference—Bishop Bruce R. Ough
- Minnesota Conference—Bishop Bruce R. Ough
- Detroit Conference—Bishop Deborah Lieder Kieseey (Michigan)
- East Ohio Conference—Bishop John L. Hopkins
- Indiana Conference—Bishop Michael J. Coyner
- Northern Illinois Conference—Bishop Sally Dyck (Chicago)
- Illinois Great Rivers Conference V V Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton (Illinois)
- Iowa Conference—Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble (Iowa)
- West Michigan Annual Conference—Bishop Deborah Lieder Kieseey
- West Ohio Conference—Bishop Gregory V. Palmer
- Wisconsin Conference—Bishop HeeV Soo Jung
- "New Michigan Area Conference" (To be established before January 1, 2019)  
—Bishop Deborah Lieder Kieseey

## **12:30 – 1:00 – Pray for Lay Delegates to General Conference**

- Conference Lay Leader Sharon Gregory
- Nancy Denardo of Port Vue UMC
- Rich Hoffman of Charter Oak UMC
- Paul Morelli of Lakeside UMC in DuBois
- Diane Miller, president of the Conference United Methodist Women
- Vicki Stahlman, Conference Sessions Team Chair and member of Brookville Evangelical UMC

## **1:00 – 1:30 – Pray for the Northeastern Jurisdiction**

- Baltimore-Washington Conference—Bishop Marcus Matthews (Washington)
- Susquehanna Conference—Bishop Jeremiah Park (Harrisburg)
- Eastern Pennsylvania Conference—Bishop Peggy Johnson (Philadelphia)
- Greater New Jersey Conference—Bishop John Schol
- New England Conference—Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar (Boston Area)
- New York Conference—Bishop Jane Allen Middleton (Interim) (New York)
- Upper New York Conference—Bishop Mark Webb
- Peninsula Delaware Conference— Bishop Peggy Johnson
- West Virginia Conference—Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
- Western Pennsylvania Conference—Bishop Thomas Bickerton (Pittsburgh)

## **1:30 – 2:00 – Pray for Clergy Delegates from Western PA**

- Eric Park, pastor of Butler First UMC



- Alyce Weaver Dunn, Johnstown District Superintendent
- Robert Zilhaver, pastor of Lakeside UMC in DuBois
- Amy Wagner, Conference director of Congregational Development and Revitalization
- William B. Meekins Jr., Assistant to the Bishop
- John Seth, pastor of Christ UMC in Youngwood

**2:00 – 2:30 – Pray for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Bishops**

- Alabama - West Florida Annual Conference—Bishop Paul L. Leeland (Alabama West-Florida)
- Florida Annual Conference—Bishop Kenneth Carter (Florida)
- Holston Conference—Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor (TN)
- Kentucky Conference—Bishop Lindsey Davis (Louisville)
- Memphis—Bishop Bill McAlilly
- Mississippi Annual Conference—Bishop James E. Swanson (Mississippi)
- North Alabama Conference—Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett(Birmingham)
- North Carolina Conference—Bishop Hope Morgan Ward (Raleigh)
- North Georgia Conference—Bishop B. Michael Watson
- Red Bird Missionary — Bishop Lindsey Davis (Louisville)
- South Carolina Conference—Bishop Jonathan Holston (Columbia)
- South Georgia Conference—Bishop James R. King, Jr. (South Georgia)
- Tennessee Conference—Bishop Bill McAlilly (Nashville)
- Virginia Conference—Bishop Young Jin Cho (Virginia)
- Western North Carolina Conference—Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster (Charlotte)

**2:30 – 3:00 – Pray for Lay Delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference**

1. Don Blystone, Erie-Meadville Lay Leader
2. Tina Whitehead, who serves as a volunteer missionary in Israel/Palestine
3. Faith Geer of St. Paul's UMC in Allison Park
4. Peggy Ward of Greenstone UMC in Pittsburgh
5. Kayla Schwanke of Russell UMC in Kane District
6. Tracy Merrick of First UMC in Pittsburgh

**3:00 – 3:30 – Pray for the South Central Jurisdiction Bishops**

- Central Texas Conference—Bishop J. Mike Lowry
- Great Plains Conference—Bishop Scott J. Jones (Kansas/Nebraska)
- Louisiana Conference—Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey (Louisiana Area)
- Missouri Conference—Bishop Robert C. Schnase (Missouri)
- Arkansas Conference—Bishop Charles Crutchfield (Little Rock)
- New Mexico Conference—Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe (Northwest Texas/New Mexico)
- North Texas Conference—Bishop Mike McKee(Dallas)

- Northwest Texas Conference—Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe (Northwest Texas/New Mexico)
- Oklahoma-Indian Missionary Conference—Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr.
- Oklahoma Conference—Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr.
- Rio Grande Conference—Bishop [interim] (San Antonio)
- Southwest Texas Conference—Bishop [interim] (San Antonio)
- Texas Conference—Bishop Janice Riggle Huie (Houston)

**3:30 – 4:00 – Pray for Clergy Delegates to the North East Jurisdictional Conference**

- Seth McPherson, associate pastor at Christ UMC in Bethel Park
- Sung Shik Chung, pastor of Otterbein UMC in Greensburg
- Gregory Cox, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries
- Randy Bain, pastor of Oakland UMC in Johnstown
- Stephanie Gottschalk, Conference Missions Coordinator
- John Ciampa, pastor of Harrison City Community UMC

**4:00 – 4:30 – Pray for the Western Jurisdiction Bishops**

- Alaska Conference—Bishop Grant J. Hagiya (Seattle)
- California-Nevada Conference—Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. (Sacramento)
- California Pacific Conference—Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño (Pasadena)
- Desert Southwest Conference—Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata (Phoenix)
- Oregon-Idaho Conference—Bishop Grant J. Hagiya (Portland)
- Pacific Northwest Conference—Bishop Grant J. Hagiya (Seattle)
- Rocky Mountain Conference—Bishop Elaine Stanovsky (Denver)
- Yellowstone Conference—Bishop Elaine Stanovsky (Denver)

**4:30 – 5:00 – Pray for Lay Alternates to the North East Jurisdictional Conference**

- Joe Emigh of Cochranton UMC
- Donna Burkhart of First UMC in Erie
- Eric Duda of Lowville UMC
- Conference Treasurer Larry Bridge
- Richard Thomas of Port Vue UMC
- Sydney Widdersheim of Christ Community UMC in Butler

**5:00 – 5:30 – Pray for the Africa Central Conference**

- Eastern Angola Episcopal Area—Bishop Jose Quipungo
  - Eastern Angola Annual Conference
- East Africa Episcopal Area—Bishop Daniel A. Wandabula
  - East Africa Annual Conference (includes Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda)
- Mozambique Episcopal Area—Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala



- Mozambique North Annual Conference
- Mozambique South Annual Conference
- South Africa Provisional conference
- Western Angola Episcopal Area—Bishop Gaspar João Domingos
  - Western Angola Annual Conference
- Zimbabwe Episcopal Area—Bishop Eben K. Nhiwatiwa
  - East Zimbabwe Annual Conference
  - West Zimbabwe Annual Conference

**5:30 – 6:00 – Pray for Clergy Alternates to the North East Jurisdictional Conference**

- Pat Nelson, Greensburg District Superintendent
- Tom Parkinson, pastor of Faith UMC in Fox Chapel
- Butler District Supt. Joel Garrett
- Joseph Stains, pastor of Mt. Hope UMC in South Fork
- Janet Lord, Conference Coordinator of Ministerial Services
- Thomas Strandburg, pastor of Mt. Lebanon UMC

**6:00 – 6:30 – Pray for the Congo Central Conference**

- Central Congo Episcopal Area—Bishop David Kekumba Yemba
  - Central Congo Annual Conference
  - East Congo Annual Conference (Previously Northeast Congo)
  - Kasai Provisional Annual Conference
  - Kivu Provisional Annual Conference
  - Oriental and Equator Annual Conference (Previously Upper Congo & Equator)
  - West Congo Annual Conference
- North Katanga Episcopal Area—Bishop Nkulu Ntanda Ntambo
  - North Katanga Annual Conference
  - Tanganyika/Tanzania Annual Conference
- South Congo Episcopal Area—Bishop Kainda Katembo
  - Lukoshi Annual Conference
  - North-West Katanga Annual Conference
  - South Congo Annual Conference
  - South-West Katanga Annual Conference

**6:30 – 7:00 - Pray for the Western PA Lay Delegates to General Conference**

- Conference Lay Leader Sharon Gregory
- Nancy Denardo of Port Vue UMC
- Rich Hoffman of Charter Oak UMC
- Paul Morelli of Lakeside UMC in DuBois
- Diane Miller, president of the Conference United Methodist Women
- Vicki Stahlman, Conference Sessions Team Chair and member of Brookville Evangelical UMC

**7:00 – 7:30 – Pray for the West Africa Central Conference**

- Liberia Episcopal Area—Bishop John Innis
  - Liberia Annual Conference
- Nigeria Episcopal Area—Bishop John Wesley Yohanna
  - Southern Nigeria Annual Conference
  - Central Nigeria Annual Conference
  - Northern Nigeria Annual Conference
- Sierra Leone Episcopal Area—Bishop John Yambasu
  - Sierra Leone Annual Conference
- Cote d'Ivoire Episcopal Area—Bishop Benjamin Boni
  - Côte d'Ivoire Annual Conference

**7:30 – 8:00 – Pray for Clergy Delegates to the 2016 General Conference**

- Eric Park, pastor of Butler First UMC
- Alyce Weaver Dunn, Johnstown District Supt.
- Robert Zilhaver, pastor of Lakeside UMC in DuBois
- Amy Wagner, Conference director of Congregational Development and Revitalization
- William B. Meekins Jr., Assistant to the Bishop
- John Seth, pastor of Christ UMC in Youngwood

**8:00 – 8:30 – Pray for the Central and Southern Europe Central Conference**

- Central and Southern Europe Episcopal Area—Bishop Patrick Streiff
  - Austria Provisional Annual Conference
  - Bulgaria Provisional Annual Conference
  - Czech and Slovak Republics Annual Conference
  - Hungary Provisional Annual Conference
  - Poland Annual Conference
  - Serbia-Montenegro/Republic of Macedonia Provisional Annual Conference
  - Switzerland-France Annual Conference (includes Algeria District)

**8:30 – 9:00 – Pray for Lay Delegates to the North East Jurisdictional Conference**

- Joe Emigh of Cochranton UMC
- Donna Burkhart of First UMC in Erie
- Eric Duda of Lowville UMC
- Conference Treasurer Larry Bridge
- Richard Thomas of Port Vue UMC
- Sydney Widdersheim of Christ Community UMC in Butler

**9:00 – 9:30 – Pray for the Germany Central Conference**

- Germany Episcopal Area—Bishop Rosemarie Wenner
  - Germany East Annual Conference
  - Germany North Annual Conference
  - Germany South Annual Conference

**9:30 – 10:00 – Pray for Clergy Delegates to the North East Jurisdictional Conference**

- Seth McPherson, associate pastor at Christ UMC in Bethel Park
- Sung Shik Chung, pastor of Otterbein UMC in Greensburg
- Gregory Cox, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries
- Randy Bain, pastor of Oakland UMC in Johnstown
- Stephanie Gottschalk, Conference Missions Coordinator
- John Ciampa, pastor of Harrison City Community UMC

**10:30 – 11:00 – Pray for Northern Europe Central Conference**

- Eurasia Episcopal Area—Bishop Eduard Khegay
  - Central Russia Annual Conference
  - Eastern Russia and Central Asia Annual Conference
  - Northwest Russia Provisional Annual Conference
  - Southern Russia Annual Conference
  - Ukraine and Moldova Annual Conference
- Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area—Bishop Christian Alsted
  - Denmark Annual Conference
  - Estonia Annual Conference
  - Finland-Finnish Provisional Annual Conference
  - Finland-Swedish Provisional Annual Conference
  - Norway Annual Conference
  - Sweden Annual Conference

**11:30 -12:00 – Pray for the Philippines Central Conference**

- Baguio Episcopal Area—Pedro M. Torio Jr.
  - Central Luzon Philippines Annual Conference
  - North Central Philippines Annual Conference
  - Northeast Philippines Annual Conference
  - Northern Philippines Annual Conference
  - Northwest Philippines Annual Conference
  - Pangasinan Philippines Annual Conference
  - Tarlac Philippines Annual Conference
  - Northeast Luzon Philippines Annual Conference
- Davao Episcopal Area—Bishop Cery Francisco
  - East Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference
  - Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference
  - Northwest Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference
  - Southwest Philippines Annual Conference
  - Palawan Philippines Annual Conference
  - Visayas Philippines Annual Conference
- Manila Episcopal Area—Bishop Rudy A. Juan
  - Bicol Philippines Provisional Annual Conference
  - Bulacan Philippines Annual Conference

- Middle Philippines Annual Conference
- Philippines Annual Conference
- Quezon City Philippines Annual Conference – East
- Rizal Philippines Annual Conference – East
- Southern Tagalog Provisional Philippines Annual Conference – East
- Pampango Philippines Annual Conference
- West Middle Philippines Annual Conference