

Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Appointment Task Force

Week 3 - Preparing the Heart of the Congregation

Prayer Individual

*Day 1: Prayer to prepare my heart (Jeremiah 17:9-10; Ezekiel 26:36; Ephesians 2:10)

Merciful Lord, I confess that my heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure, no one but you can understand. As (Congregation's Name) prepares to receive our new pastor I ask that you will search our hearts and examine our minds. Remove the hearts of stone in our midst and replace them with hearts of flesh. Remind us that we are your handiwork, created in Christ Jesus and help us purpose to do all of the good works, which have you have prepared for us in advance. Amen.

* Day 2: Prayer for discernment and wisdom (Proverbs 16:2-3; Philippians 4:8; Psalm 25:4-5)

Gracious God, all my ways seem pure to me, but my motives are weighed by you alone. As I prepare to meet the pastor you are sending to (Congregation's Name), grant me wisdom and discernment. Help me to commit my ways to you, so that I might be attentive to these few things: whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, and whatever is admirable in your sight. Lord, show me your ways, guide me in your truth and teach me. For you are my God and Savior. My hope is always in you. Amen.

*Day 3: Offer Support (John 3:16; James 2:14a; Hebrews 3:16; Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:4)

Generous God, I have faith to believe you so loved the world that you gave your one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. But, what good is my faith in you without the willingness to help my brothers and sisters? Reveal the needs of others so that I may graciously offer them my unyielding support. Teach me how to look toward their interests much more than my own. I pray in Jesus name Amen.

*Day 4: Prayer for Unity in Body of Christ
(Philippians 2:2 NASB; Colossians 1:16-17; 1John 4:7-8 Romans 15:5)

Triune God, help me and the people of (Congregation's Name) come together, so that being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united by the Spirit, and intent on one purpose, our hearts may be joined with you in your love. Renew our commitment to become more accepting and loving toward all your children, because love comes from you. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give us the same attitude toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with oneness of heart his love may be demonstrated to your glory. In Jesus name, Amen.

*Day 5: Prayer for (Pastor (and Family) (Ecclesiastes 3:1; 5b; 2Corinthians 1:4b; Isaiah 43:19a)

Eternal God, I know there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heaven. In this season of the church for itinerate pastors and their families I pray you will encourage them as they anticipate the change, remind them that there is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. As they prepare to leave the people they have served faithfully give them the same comfort they have offered to others in your name. I also pray the peace that surpasses all understanding will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus so that they may experience all of the new opportunities you already have in store. Amen.

*Day 6: Prayer for God's Blessings on the Congregation

(2 Corinthians 9:8; Genesis 12:2; 2Cor 9:8 ;Ps 67:1; 1Chronicles 4:10; 1Peter 4:10-11)

God of Grace, I have placed my trust in you and give thanks for bestowing upon (Congregation's Name) more than enough blessings for every good deed we do in your name. As it was with Abraham I also believe you bless us so that we may be a blessing to others. Lord, continue to bless us, bless us indeed! Be gracious to us, let your hand be with us, keep us from harm and enlarge our territory, so that we may use whatever we have received from you as stewards of your grace to serve and bless many others. Amen

*Day 7: Praise and thanksgiving to God (Deuteronomy 10:17 ;21; Psalm 105:5b)

O Lord of lords and great God, you are mighty and awesome. You are our God and the One I praise. You continually perform great wonders before my eyes. Your love and compassion sustain me. Your grace and mercy embrace me. Your Holy Spirit empowers me and your Son is the reminder of your unfailing love. None can compare with you. If I were to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many for me to declare. In all things I praise and give thanks to you through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs glory and power forever and ever. Amen.