

pray together

ACTS 1:14

GUIDELINES REGARDING MEETING FORMAT, STRUCTURE AND COMPORMENT

1. Please be on time! Ideally, come into the room or join the Zoom meeting a few minutes early.
2. If Zooming, please do so from a place with no background noise. When you unmute yourself to pray, whatever sounds are in the background will accompany you.
3. Similarly, upon entering the in-person room, please do so in silence.
4. Kindly remember to silence your cell phones as well.
5. The moderator starts each meeting promptly at the top of the hour with a brief opening statement, transitioning to a period of silence as we allow our thoughts to be quieted before the Lord and listen to how he is prompting us to pray.
6. After the period of silence, the moderator opens with a brief prayer, and then invites everyone, whether in person or over Zoom, to pray whenever the Holy Spirit prompts them.
7. Zoom participants should always unmute themselves when they wish to pray. The Zoom host may prompt you to do so if he/she sees it necessary. Please mute yourself again when finished praying. The Zoom host may do this for you after a few moments if you forget.
8. We expect the prayer time to last between 30 and 45 minutes. If participants need to depart in silence after 30 minutes, that is perfectly okay.
9. Once the closing prayer has occurred, anyone who wishes to remain for fellowship until the top of the hour is encouraged to do so.
10. Please try not to multi-task as a Zoom participant. Consider leaving your cell phone in another room, etc.

GUIDELINES AND “GUARDRAILS” REGARDING PRAYER

1. Prayer is conversation with God, so pray however you feel led to talk to God.
2. Please feel no pressure to pray out loud. Your silent agreement with others is every bit as powerful as their spoken prayers.
3. Periods of silence are okay! Simply continue in silent prayer or listening for the Lord until the Spirit leads you or someone else to speak.
4. There are many models for prayer. One that is easy to remember is **A.C.T.S.:**
 - a. **Adoration**
 - b. **Confession**
 - c. **Thanksgiving**
 - d. **Supplication** (specific requests).

5. Emphasize prayers that **bless**, are **biblical** and are **brief**
 - a. **BLESS:** Are other's uplifted or torn down?
 - b. **BIBLICAL:** Does prayer align itself with the Word of God?
 - c. **BRIEF:** Pray as the Spirit leads you but try not to "hog the ball." Be respectful of others who also want to pray
6. Bring your thoughts into captivity and try not to let your mind wander. Instead of thinking about what you are going to pray next, listen in silent support of the one praying.
7. Broadly, the emphasis of **Pray Together** is to pour out our hearts before the Lord for the salvation of the lost and the mission of our church, asking that he in turn would pour out his Spirit on our church, neighborhood, nation, and the world. Each meeting reminder also contains a current set of specific prayer requests. You may wish to select one or more of these as a focus for your prayer.
8. Pray with an attitude of expectation that God will answer. Focus on God's faithfulness and ability rather than the problem.
9. Be sensitive to others who are present. What may be appropriate in your own personal prayer time may not be appropriate when you are praying with others.
10. ALWAYS respect the confidentiality of **Pray Together** gatherings and the intercessory prayer requests brought before us.
11. Please refrain from expressing partisan political viewpoints or praying for specific political outcomes during this community prayer time, reserving such topics for your personal prayer closet. The New Living Translation of Acts 1:14 reads: "They all met together and were constantly united in prayer..."
12. Kindly avoid seeking to teach, counsel, or give information to others through your prayers.