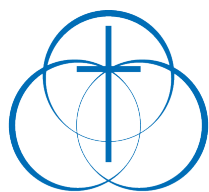


GROWING YOUR CHURCH'S **Prayer Ministry**



The goal of prayer ministry is not to do all of the praying for the church, but to equip, enable, encourage, and engage church members to make prayer a part of everything they do.

One of the most important components in developing a church-wide culture of prayer is having leadership that is committed to prayer.



TRINITY
CONFERENCE
Global Methodist Church

[TRINITYGMC.ORG/PRAYER](https://trinitygmc.org/prayer)

The Trinity Conference desires to equip all churches to be committed to prayer in everything they do. As with many other aspects of ministry, what works for one church may not work for others. This guide is meant to provide a variety of ideas to consider if your church has a desire to begin or grow an active prayer ministry.

GETTING STARTED:

- Engage the pastor and the leaders of your church to pray for God to reveal specific people He wants to use for this ministry.
- Ask God for a Vision of what your prayer ministry can look like.
- Communicate this vision to the church in a clear and concise manner. Be sure to include a “call to action” for people to regularly pray, regardless of whether they choose to be part of the Prayer Ministry.
- Consider holding a ‘healing prayer’ service or another type of prayer service/event. Be sure to follow up afterwards with those in attendance to see if they are willing to meet regularly.
- Consider offering a Bible Study on prayer or ‘hosting’ a group prayer study using a Bible app. Use those in attendance as an initial core group to start a regular prayer meeting.

ONCE YOU BEGIN:

- Know that it's okay to start small. Trust God to send the right people at the right time.
- Determine what format works best for your church. Prayer Ministry can take place in person, online (Zoom/social media), or by phone.
- Meeting weekly is ideal, but choose a schedule that works well for the leader and is held on a convenient day and time for everyone who desires to participate.
- Commit to praying for people by name.
- Communicate often to the entire congregation using all available format, but be sure to always **honor the confidentiality of anyone who requests it.**

AT ANY POINT:

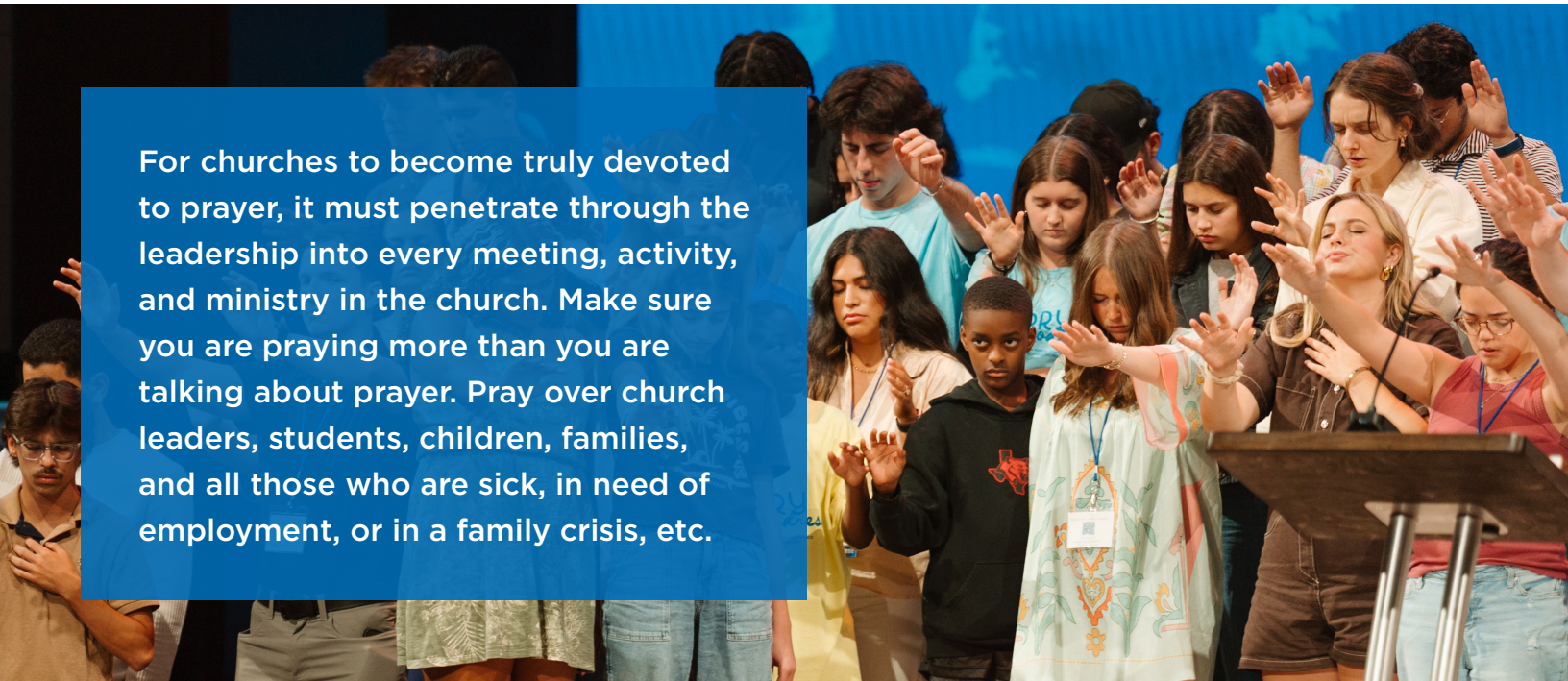
- Reach out to prayer@trinitygmc.org or your Area Prayer Representative (listed on the Conference website) for guidance, encouragement, or with questions.



Prayer Ministry supports the pastor and helps equip and engage the church members to pray faithfully on an ongoing basis. The prayer life of the overall church will grow in proportion to the growth in the prayer life of each individual member.

DEVELOPING YOUR PRAYER LIST:

- Designate an individual or team of staff/volunteers to maintain your prayer list and establish a protocol for communicating requests, regardless of how they are submitted.
- Communicate how requests can be submitted:
 - Provide prayer cards for people to place in the offering plate or other designated places
 - Set up a link and/or QR code for people to submit requests that feed into a Google doc (maintaining a list in this format allows multiple people to view and/or edit the same document).
 - If you broadcast services, provide a way for people participating online to submit requests as well.
- **Be sure to provide an opt out option for those who do not want requests published beyond the pastor or prayer team, and ensure these requests are honored.**
- Consider how you organize your list. One way is to:
 - Include only new or critical needs in the bulletin or newsletter where space is limited.
 - Separate member requests from those submitted for friends of members.
 - Utilize a prayer board in a dedicated prayer space.
 - Maintain a more detailed list with specific requests available only to prayer team members.
- Consider how to publish your list (email/text, newsletter, bulletin, etc.)
- Decide when and how requests will be removed from the list. Do they stay on until you are informed of a resolution or do they only stay on for a set period of time (3-4 weeks) unless an update or new request is received?
- Have a person or people dedicated to following up with prayer requests to ensure that specific needs are being lifted up.
- Don't forget to share praises when prayers are answered!



For churches to become truly devoted to prayer, it must penetrate through the leadership into every meeting, activity, and ministry in the church. Make sure you are praying more than you are talking about prayer. Pray over church leaders, students, children, families, and all those who are sick, in need of employment, or in a family crisis, etc.



ENGAGING YOUR CONGREGATION:

- Publish prayer requests in whatever way works best for your members, including: newsletters, bulletins, email communications, on a private portion of your website, in closed groups on social media, or any combination of these.
- Don't forget your shut-ins – they may want to host a group in their home or join the prayer meetings by phone or electronically.
- Create group texts (or communicate via various apps like GroupMe or WhatsApp) for updates with immediate needs.
- Organize in-person opportunities to pray for specific needs of the congregation, invite those in need of prayer to attend if they are able so they may be anointed.
- Develop a team willing to be available for prayer at community outreach events. Identify them with a shirt, nametag, or other means.
- Develop a rotating list of individuals or teams who pray over the pastors, youth and leadership, various ministries, and the worship service each week.
- Recruit members who are willing to be present at the end of service weekly to pray with anyone who might like to come for personal prayer.
- Aim to get all generations involved!

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CREATING A PRAYER ROOM?

Having a “place of prayer” is a powerful way to show that the church is dedicated and committed to prayer. Keep the prayer room attractive, uncluttered, accessible, and practical. Include a place for people to write and post specific requests with categories for prayer including your church members, your community, your Conference, and the world.

SUGGESTED READING:

“How to Launch a Church Prayer Ministry” by Stephen Kendrick, Alex Kendrick and Nic Allen

“Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home” by Richard Foster

The Conference Prayer Team is always available for guidance, support, and encouragement:

PRAYER@TRINITYGMC.ORG

Find more prayer resources online:

TRINITYGMC.ORG/PRAYER