

## **SETTING UP A PRAYER CHAIN**

### **What is a Prayer Chain?**

A Prayer Chain is a group of persons linked together by phone, texting, encrypted social media messaging (e.g. What'sApp), or email, who take up their responsibility to pray, in their own time and place, for certain persons or concerns made known to them by the prayer chain Leader who receives the prayer requests.

### **Why Start a Prayer Chain?**

- To live out our God-given mandate “to pray for one another”
- To provide immediate confidential prayer support
- To connect this prayer ministry to the total ministry of the community of faith

### **How to Set Up a Prayer Chain**

- The minister and/or appropriate committee
- Chooses to establish a Prayer Chain
- Makes known to the community, the purpose and functioning of a Prayer Chain
- Encourages support and participation
- Calls an initial meeting

### **Things to Include at the Initial Meeting**

- Open and close the gathering with prayer
- Review the information already made available to the community
- Outline the function of the Prayer Chain Leader who receives requests
- Outline expectations for Prayer Chain Members
- Choose a Leader
- Create list of willing participants
- The Leader convenes a meeting of those deciding to participate, to further discuss and plan the Chain's functioning.

## **PRAYER CHAIN LEADER**

### Responsibilities

- Receive all prayer requests however transmitted
- Listen attentively to the details of the request
- Prayerfully discern what information will be passed on to the Prayer Chain Members
- Pass requests along, requesting acknowledgement of receipt
- Prepare a list of Members' confidential contact information
- Call a quarterly or periodic gathering of Prayer Chain members for encouragement and ongoing learning
- Invite new member participation and provide functioning information
- Report to Minister or appointed committee on a regular basis or as needed
- Ensure Minister or Pastoral Care person(s) are aware of crisis needs
- Keep Prayer Chain Leader's name and contact info regularly in the weekly bulletin

## **PRAYER CHAIN MEMBERS**

Plan how you will keep record of prayer requests, on paper, or using an App (e.g. Echo)

- After receiving a prayer request from the Leader, make time to pray as soon as possible
- Continue to pray daily concerning each prayer request for a month or until notified otherwise.
- Do not engage with other members of the community regarding a prayer request
- Requests for prayer must be kept confidential and not made the subject of general conversation
- Attend, as possible, all meetings of the Prayer Chain called by the Leader, in order to encourage one another and to grow in understanding effective prayer practice
- Notify the Leader if you will be out of contact for a while
- Endeavour to deepen your own prayer life with regular worship, personal prayer and meditation, and with scripture reflection.