

## **SETTING UP A PRAYER GROUP**

### **What is a Prayer Group?**

A Prayer Group is a group of persons meeting together in person to pray for certain persons, situations and concerns.

### **Why Start a Prayer Group?**

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

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

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

### **The Initial Meeting (Items to include)**

The Minister or appropriate committee member:

- Opens and closes the gathering with prayer
- Reviews the purpose and functioning of a Prayer Group
- Ascertains an appropriate regular time and place for the Group to gather
- Notes that anyone may attend any Prayer Group gathering, and ensures that the congregation is made aware of this in the bulletin

***It is recommended that the group meet weekly in a church setting rather than in a private location or home to enable anyone on any occasion to feel welcome to attend the gathering.***

## **PRAYER OUTLINE for PRAYER GROUP**

### **Awareness of God's Presence**

*Leader:* Holy One, Source of Life in all creation, we give thanks for the wonder of your living presence within and among us. And we gather in the name of Jesus, the Christ, whose Spirit protects, guides and enables our prayer.

*Group:* Amen

### **Centering**

*Leader:* In quietness now, Loving God, we still ourselves, and open our whole being to silently commune with you. (Following several moments of silence the Leader speaks "Amen")

### **Assurance**

*Leader:* God of Forgiveness, we acknowledge in sorrow before you, our human failings and failings. Yet in kindness and compassion you assure us that we are forgiven, and free to live according to your intention for our life and service in this world.

*Group:* We receive your amazing grace with deep gratitude, and commit ourselves to living in Christ's way and truth, and serving your holy purposes.

### **God's Power and Equipping**

*Leader:* God of Power, you have called us and Spirit-equipped us for partnership in your ongoing creative and restorative action in your world. You guide and empower our prayers for others, for communities of faith, for nations and nature, according to their needs.

*Group:* We accept with wonder the privilege of being participants in your healing and transforming activity in your creation. And we open ourselves to your equipping.

### **Thanksgiving**

*Leader:* God of Everlasting Goodness, you have showered us and this earth with abundant blessings. We name in word or silence particular thanksgivings as these arise within us at this time. (Having given appropriate time, the leader speaks "Amen")

### **Petitions**

#### **Supplication** (prayer for personal need or concern)

*Leader:* God of Love, trusting your nearness, caring and kindness, we pray for personal needs or concerns, aloud or in silence. (Having given appropriate time, the leader speaks "Amen")

#### **Intercession**

(prayers for specific requests received, for others, for creation, society, nations, and the world)

*Leader:* God of All, we name before you intercessions offered in Christ's name. (Having given appropriate time, the leader speaks "Amen")

### **Closing**

*Leader and Group:* Gracious God, we gather all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and rest them with you in the confidence of our faith that you who receive our prayer are already answering in your love and wisdom. And we pray together as Jesus taught us, saying 'Our Father . . .'