

PRAYER AND DISAGREEMENT

Encouraging Prayer For Difficult Conversations

Pray Without Ceasing...

When facing difficult conversations we identified that soaking everything in prayer is a great starting point. We can encourage the following groups to be praying:

- Congregation members.
- Those involved directly with the meetings/conversations.
- Those who support us personally in prayer.

Different resources/materials will be appropriate for each group. Here are a few ideas and prayers that might be of help, but normally the best ones are those that you create, so see these as launch pads for your own ideas.

A PRAYER TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE CONGREGATION

Almighty God,
by whose Spirit we are joined by faith to your son
and by love to one another,
grant that as our PCC meet they may listen humbly,
speak wisely and be clothed with compassion.
Govern their thinking and actions by your grace.
May the decisions they make bring glory to you,
build up the body of Christ in our parish,
and witness to your saving and healing power.
Through Jesus Christ your son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.
(Fiona Gibson, adapted)

This could also be used as part of the intercessions at services throughout the process of discussion.

A PRAYER TO DISTRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE MEETING

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You founded the earth in the beginning
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
and in these last days you have spoken to us
in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
your Spirit ever renew our lives
and your praises ever be on our lips.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
(Prayer of thanksgiving from Morning Prayer)

They could also use an adapted version of the prayer to be distributed to the congregation.

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PRAYER

Distribute the names of all those involved in the discussion at the meeting(s) with a date against their name leading up to the meeting. Invite everyone to pray for God's blessing on the individual listed for that day. For example:

11 Mary
12 Onde
13 Injit
14 Simon
15 and so on until...
22 Date of meeting.

This blogpost lists [five things to pray for in times of conflict](#). You could distribute it with a personal note of vulnerable encouragement about how you have found this list helpful.

Be clear with the congregation about specific things to pray for each meeting, and give them an overview of the whole process, as much as you know it.

With your personal prayer supporters you can be a little more open and vulnerable. Tell them your concerns and how you are feeling. Ask them to pray specifically about the things you know you will struggle with.



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