



LITURGY FOR A PCC MEETING

This is a simple liturgy for use at a PCC meeting. Items can be changed, and can even be dispersed throughout the meeting rather than occurring just at the start and end. Whichever approach is taken, it may also be helpful to pause during agenda items to pray:

- To give thanks for something good that has occurred as a result of a previous decision, or in the light of some good news.
- To pause to be still and seek the mind of Christ around a tricky issue.
- To pray for an individual who is in need or a situation where there is difficulty.
- To commit to God a decision just made and to pray for those responsible for the actions following from the decision.

It is helpful to encourage a variety of people to lead the prayers. Depending on the confidence level of your PCC, this may need to be introduced sensitively stage-by-stage, initially asking people to contribute in small ways until their confidence level is sufficient for them to lead the whole thing.

There are further ideas about how to encourage prayer within the PCC meeting in the leader's guide for this resource.

Preparation

Leader The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

Leader We are gathered to seek the mind of Christ, to work well together, to take action for the future and to reflect our code of conduct in service of God's kingdom. Let us prepare ourselves for all that we need to do during this meeting.

A period of quiet to reflect on the day so far, and the meeting ahead.

Confession

Leader We come to our forgiving God, saying together:

All **Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

Leader O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Bible reading

Either choose a Psalm that can be said together or a suitable reading for the meeting. If appropriate, take time to reflect on the reading using one of the approaches below:

- Invite people into smaller groups and ask them to explore two questions: (1) What strikes them from the passage? (2) What are the implications of the passage for the life of the church?
- Lead people through a 'lectio divina' way of engaging with the passage.
- Offer some teaching based on the passage.

Prayer for the meeting

This may include some space for open prayer.

Either

All **Almighty God
you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church
to lead us into all truth:
bless with the Spirit's grace and presence
the members of this PCC;
keep us steadfast in faith and united in love,
that we may manifest your glory
and prepare the way of your kingdom;**

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

Or

God of mission, we are your Church,
Christ's body on earth,
your holy people for your needy world.
In our thinking, give us wisdom,
in our planning, give us faith to move mountains,
in our action, give us the power of your Spirit,
that all we do and think and say may be for your glory
and for the growth of the kingdom of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen¹.

Leader Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive, by the power which is at work among us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all ages.

All Amen.

Agenda items

Concluding prayer at the end of the meeting

If you have not already done so, pray for the various decisions made during the meeting.

Leader We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

All **Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not lead us into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Leader In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Leader Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

Leader As the night watch looks for the morning,
All **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Leader The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

All Amen.

¹Written by Rev Jane Keiller for the Ely Diocese 900th year anniversary.