

Members of Helena UMC,

The Discernment Team would like to share this Prayer Guide as we continue in our process. Holding this entire process in prayer and seeking to truly discern God's will more than our own is crucial to the success of not only this journey but the life of this church moving forward. Please lift these concerns up in your prayer routine and use the included Scriptures for additional meditation.

We will send out another update this week that will include some updated timeline information as well as responses to some questions and concerns discussed at our recent dialogue sessions. Please watch for this update.

Continuing in prayer and service,
Your Discernment Team

Prayer Guide for Discernment Process

- 1. Pray that God would give Helena United Methodist Church wisdom and discernment as we seek to follow His will regarding disaffiliation.**

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:17-18

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Psalm 25:4-5

- 2. Pray for our congregation as we engage with others whose opinions and viewpoints differ from our own. Help us extend love and grace to one another and work together in a spirit of humility.**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

3. Pray for our Discernment Team, our pastor, and our conference leadership during these difficult times.

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! Psalm 143:10*

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3

*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.
Proverbs 16:9*

4. Pray that we would not walk in a spirit of fear but that we would walk by faith.

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

5. Pray for the financial health of our church and wisdom regarding the financial decisions to be made during this season.

And my God will supply every need of your according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

6. Pray that we would follow God's leading concerning future affiliation decisions if leaving the UMC does become our path forward.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6*