

Growing Spiritually as an Elder

Intercession Prayers



Disciples



Pray

Intercessory prayer can take many forms. The following suggestions are divided into several groups:

- 1) *Prayer for pastors/leaders*
- 2) *Prayers for the lay members*
- 3) *Prayers for your congregation's ministry*
- 4) *Prayers for the whole church*
- 5) *Prayers for one another*

Prayers for pastors/elders

- 1) Agree to pray for the pastor(s) on a rotating schedule by day or week. For example, person one prays for the pastor Monday, person two Tuesday, etc. OR Person one prays each day at 9:00 for the pastor, person two prays at noon, etc.
- 2) Send letters of prayerful encouragement to the pastor. Hold them in your hands and pray for them as you place them in the postbox, that the prayers may be a source of strength for your congregation.
- 3) Meet and pray with a laying on of hands for the pastor once or on a regular basis.
- 4) Agree on a scripture and have everyone read it each day in their prayers inserting the pastor's name. For instance, "The Lord is the Shepherd of Cathy. She shall not want." It is also effective is to read scriptures in this way into a tape and give it to the pastor.
- 5) Take turns a week or month at a time being the pastor's prayer partner, asking for specifics about what needs prayer for him/her.
- 6) Meet in the sanctuary on Sunday morning and pray for the pastor's sermon.
- 7) Covenant to pray for the pastor throughout the time he/she is preaching. Encircle them with God's light and love while they bring the word. You can do this in the sanctuary or in the Pastor's office.

Prayers for lay members

- 1) Pray through the directory of your congregation one family per day. Send a note to the persons for whom you are praying the week before the prayers letting them know of your intention, or send it on the day of the prayers.



- 2) Divide the congregation into smaller lists of names and take the lists home to pray with each day. If your congregation is large, divide the groups so that each person has 7-10 names to pray for each day.
- 3) Create a prayer chain that call each other twice a week for prayer concerns in the church. You can use email very effectively to keep a prayer chain going.
- 4) Offer the congregation the ability to put slips of paper in a box weekly with joys or concerns and pray with these at your gatherings or during the week.

Prayers for your congregation's ministry

- 1) Pray for the leaders of your congregation one at a time as a group for a week or a month at a time each. OR assign one or two leaders per person for daily prayers. Let the leaders know of your prayers for their encouragement.
- 2) Pray the church calendar. Pray specifically and deeply for each event in the life of your congregation.
- 3) Pray for the teachers in your church school. Go to the classrooms, if you meet at the church, and pray for them there. Leave them notes or little gifts to let them know you have been there.
- 4) Pray for the mission projects of your congregation in the community one per week. Let them know of your prayers.
- 5) Pray for the visitors from last Sunday's worship by name. Pray for the people God will send to your congregation over the next two years. Seek prayers of preparation that you will be ready to receive those sent to you.
- 6) Get out the old newsletters from 10 years ago and pray for each person mentioned in gratitude for their witness in the history of the congregation. Learn about them.

Prayers for the Whole Church

- 1) Pray for the work of the church congregation by congregation, or region by region using the most current Disciples of Christ yearbook of churches.
- 2) Pray for the church country by country using the globe.
- 3) Pray for your regional mission partners and global ministry partners by name each time you gather and let them know of your prayers.
- 4) Get on the internet and go to the Disciples' web page at www.disciples.org. Read through the page and make a prayer list. Share it in the group.
- 5) Pray for the clergy in the back of the yearbook of churches one column at a time. Send them notes of gratitude and encouragement. Pray for your regional staff and the general staff of the church.



Prayers for One Another

- 1) Have each person write on a card the places they need prayer over the next week and shuffle the cards and pass them out. You might encourage the person to call the person they are praying for that week and leave a message of hope.
- 2) Take turns putting one person in the middle of the circle and lay hands on them while one or more of the group offers prayers.
- 3) Make a promise to each other to stop whatever you are doing for 1-5 minutes each day at an agreed upon time and pray for each other wherever you are. For example, at noon, stop and pray for each other each day.
- 4) Make a prayer calendar each month where persons note on it the special dates that they will want extra prayer. Copy this and hand it out monthly to the group.
- 5) Make a nice card or poster with all of your names on it and give one to each person. Put it someplace you will see it each day and stop and pray for the people by name.

