



Lead Team  
Nomination

# Prayer Guide



# Introduction

As a church we want to support you as you prayerfully seek God's leading in nominating future lead team members. We recognize that this process of discernment will look different for everybody and there is no blanket formula or strategy that will bring about guaranteed, fast, easy solutions. However, there is a unified process that we would like to encourage you to consider as we seek God together as a church. Please feel free to use any of these suggestions in your personal pursuit of God's wisdom.

## What Are Some Practical Things I Can Do To Make This Time More Meaningful?

### *Sometimes it's helpful to spend time:*

***Fasting*** – removing specific items we are attached to in order to bring greater focus on God as our provider and sustainer.

***In silence*** – removing the distracting noises of life in order to bring clarity of God's voice over the voices of preference, responsibilities or human wisdom.

***In retreat*** (enjoying nature or other places you encounter God) – going to places where you frequently encounter God often helps us to hear Him more clearly.

***Immersed in the Word*** – One of the easiest ways to hear God's voice is when we read the things He's already said. God often speaks the impressions the Holy Spirit imparts to us through His word.

### How Do I Get Started?

We encourage you, together with the rest of the church, to use this devotional guide to assist you in prayerfully discerning who God might be calling to serve on the Lead Team. Each day you'll be encouraged to reflect on a passage of Scripture and apply it in prayer to this process (where only portions or references are included we encourage you to read the full passage in your Bible). We also encourage you to share with others what God is teaching you. This time can be deeply meaningful if we can learn and grow together.

# Day 1

## Psalm 46

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- <sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- <sup>8</sup> Come and see what the LORD has done,  
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## ***Start With Acknowledging God***

When there are big decisions to be made (like choosing leaders in our church) we often put a lot of pressure on ourselves and we become very focused on “human” wisdom. Sometimes, in the midst of accepting this responsibility for our lives and our church, we forget that we (and our thoughts) are not supposed to be at the center of our lives. Rather God, His will and His wisdom are! It’s okay to slow down a little. The goal is to focus less on having the “solution” and focus more on creating time and space for “peace” in our day (especially when it comes to our prayer life). If you are one who finds yourself immediately “getting down to business” in prayer... perhaps it’s time to take a pause and ***acknowledge God***.

Question: ***Do you really believe God is sovereign?*** Is He capable to direct us (or even redirect us if we are on the wrong path) through all circumstances?

As you pray, take some time to simply thank Him that He has a plan. Pause there... just be thankful that He is in control. Then, take a little ***more*** time and let that feeling of thankfulness speak to any part of you that feels anxious about this decision (about our church leadership) or any other part of your life that has made your heart anxious or your mind feel busy. Let this thankfulness bring a spirit of calm into your day.

Sometimes it’s helpful to surround yourself with reminders that God is sovereign. As you pray it may help to choose a location that doesn’t remind you of all your responsibilities (away from your office, family or other sources of stressful stimulation). If you are anxious or feel hurried in these times of prayer you may

need to become aware of these thoughts and gently remind yourself that God can manage the details of your life without you for a little while. You might try repeating the phrases: “God is in control,” or, “God is sovereign,” or, “Be still and know that I am God.”

## **Notes:**

# Day 2

## Psalm 139

- <sup>1</sup>You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>17</sup>How precious to me are your thoughts, God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup>Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.
- <sup>23</sup>Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup>See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

## ***Spend Some Time In Confession***

Sometimes it's hard to separate **our** desires from **God's** desires in our thoughts and prayers. Let's face it; at times we can be self-centered beings. For example: shortly after we took our first breath we communicated our desires by crying. It was simple. When we were hungry, we cried. When we were dirty, we cried and "solutions" came about quickly. We have always been naturally effective in advocating for our own agenda and desires.

It's understandable that we could easily become creatures of this habit. For this reason it is important to become aware of own agendas when we pray. In this process of prayerfully discerning leaders we need to realize it is **more than choosing representation of our ideas**. We know that **Scripture calls us to surrender our agendas and pray for our leaders**. It would make sense that we should begin this process of surrender even before we select leaders.

Take some time to surrender to God. Ask Him to reveal where you hold on to agendas. Ask Him how these thoughts and ideas might present conflict with your ability to clearly hear from God?

### **Notes:**

# Day 3

## Matthew 6

<sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.’

### ***Pray, “Thy Kingdom Come”***

Yesterday you focused on building an awareness of your ***own desires*** and you began seeking ***God’s desires***. Today we want to spend some time thinking and praying about where we can see that our thoughts and God’s thoughts are lining up. While we do it will be important to stay mindful of the areas where they still differ. Are God’s thoughts becoming your thoughts?

The process of aligning our thoughts with God's kingdom thoughts can take some time. Like we reflected yesterday, we are natural born advocates of our own desires. Therefore it may take some time to discern God's thoughts clearly. This is a process where we continually peel off layers of ourselves as we embrace God and put Jesus at the center.

Today, it may help just to take a few moments to be silent and simply pray, "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." Perhaps you could ask God to show you a picture of what that would look like. What would it look like in our church? How about in your life? Our church discerned that this would be a place where people love God, love others and make disciples. What is God telling you this would look like? Let this image guide you as you continue to pray throughout the day...

## **Notes:**

# **Day 4**

## ***Consider the Type of Leader it Takes to Get Our Church to This Place***

Yesterday you prayed for an image of what our church would look like if God's Kingdom were on earth as it is in heaven. What type of leader does it take to get to this image? Study the passages of Scripture referenced below and let them guide your prayers and thoughts.

Human wisdom says that a balance of age, gender and perspective are critically important. Granted, these can very be helpful, but we know that being led by the Spirit and possessing godly character is absolutely non-negotiable. Here is a list of Biblical values that we encourage you to use as your guide in this time.

**1 Timothy 3:1-13**

**Titus 2**

**1 Peter 5:2-3**

**Notes:**

# Day 5

## **Ephesians 1**

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

## ***Spend Time Praying For These Individuals***

Perhaps you have a few individuals in mind already. If not, that's okay. Maybe return to this process at another time, and stay vigilant as the Lord may present someone to you. Be open to the Lord even nudging you in this direction. If so, consider talking to a Pastor or LT Member about exploring the possibility. However, if you sense God putting someone on your heart, start praying for them. Ask God, what does **He** want you to pray for them? Does He want you to pray for their encouragement? Is He guiding you to pray for confidence, blessing, or empowerment? Perhaps you should be praying that they sense God's Spirit of discernment in their calling?

Spend today simply praying for the people God lays on your heart. It is possible that these may not be called at this time to be Lead Team members but these prayers may be critical for a future time. It never hurts to be in prayer for each other.

As you pray does God continue to bring the same person to mind or does He shift your thoughts to others?

### **Notes:**

# Day 6

## Hebrews 10

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### ***Prayerfully Approach The Person God Has Placed On Your Heart***

It is important that we acknowledge that the whole process is very subjective. Sometimes we hear things differently than others and sometimes we don't get the entire picture. We do know that God is sovereign and He will take care of the details. So relax, God will handle the outcome of today's "work" and we will all learn something important through our obedience in the process.

I like to think of it like this: we are simply doing our best to discern what God is saying to us and God may have other plans. We may see an important part of the picture... but it might not be the complete picture. Sometimes the process is more about learning to be obedient than the outcome itself! Furthermore, there's another person involved in the process and we might not be aware of everything God is teaching them in this time. Consider it like this; perhaps your voice is like an advertisement in a flyer. The offer is there to purchase a fantastic product, but for them it might not be the right time to "buy the product..."

I like to have a script when I approach subjective topics like this with other people. If you would like, you can borrow mine:

**Me:** “In my prayer time the Lord has been placing you on my heart... I have been praying that He would \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (encourage, guide, bless, etc.) you. I have a sense that maybe He might be calling you to explore what it would mean to serve on the Lead Team. Have you felt God leading you in this direction?”

**Them:** If yes...

**Me:** “Would it be okay if I nominate you? How can I continue to pray for you?”

**Them:** If no...

**Me:** “Is this something you’d like me to continue praying about?”

**Them:** If no again...

**Me:** “I hope it’s an encouragement to you that God would lay something like this on my heart. I believe God could use you like this, perhaps the timing is not right.”

**Notes:**

# Day 7

## 1 Timothy 2

<sup>1</sup>I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, <sup>4</sup>who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.

# ***Nominate The Individual And Continue To Pray For The Lead Team***

We hope that this has been a meaningful week (or longer) of prayer and seeking God's direction. It doesn't need to end here. The passage you just read instructs us to continue praying for our leaders.

The final step is to nominate the individual(s) you have been praying for.

Nomination forms are available online and at the office.

Nominations are accepted anytime and if they accept the nomination, the person will enter a mutual discernment process with the existing Lead Team.

The Lead Team will follow up and discern with these individuals, and present recommended candidates for affirmation well before the Annual General Meeting.

If you have questions about this process, we encourage you to connect with a current Lead Team member or Pastor Sean.