



Litany and Prayer for the Commissioning of General Conference Delegates and Volunteers

Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform The World

The litany is intended for use by congregations with General Conference delegates and/or volunteers present. We encourage all United Methodist congregations to use the prayer of commissioning in worship on this special Sunday.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: We gather today, united in purpose, to commission those who carry the flame of service and dedication for the postponed 2020 United Methodist General Conference to be held in Charlotte, April 23 – May 3. General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination. 862 delegates, half clergy and half lay, will come together to consider revisions to church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. The General Conference will also approve plans and budgets for church-wide ministry for the next four years. Delegates will worship, pray, debate, and vote as one body. Volunteers will serve in a variety of ways to welcome bishops, delegates, and guests to Charlotte. Their service will help create the space for holy conferencing.

Delegates and/or Volunteers: We stand ready, hearts open wide, to serve with courage, love, and pride.

If there are delegates present in the congregation, continue with the Commissioning of Delegates. If the congregation is commissioning only volunteers, move to the Commissioning of Volunteers.

COMMISSIONING OF DELEGATES

Leader: For this sacred task, we call forth leaders, delegates, chosen and appointed, to represent the diverse voices of our faith, in the spirit of humility and grace.

Delegates: We answer the call, with minds prepared to listen, discern, and faithfully share.

Leader: May the Spirit of wisdom dwell within you, empowering you to speak truth to power, and to advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, with courage and unwavering resolve.

Delegates: With boldness, we stand for righteousness's sake, in the face of adversity, we will be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: May you walk with integrity and wisdom, guided by the light of God's eternal love, as you navigate the complexities of our time, seeking justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

Delegates: With humility, we embrace this sacred trust.

COMMISSIONING OF VOLUNTEERS

Leader: For those who will give of their time and talents to offer hospitality to our brothers and sisters from around the world, may your hearts be filled with compassion and your words seasoned with kindness and empathy, as you share unconditional love and respect for all.

Volunteers: We covenant to honor the dignity of each soul in our actions and our words as we shine the light of Christ in Charlotte.

Congregation: As you embark on this sacred journey, know that you are surrounded by our prayers, and supported by this community of faith. We are bound together by the love of God.

Delegates and/or Volunteers: With gratitude, we receive this charge today. In God's grace, we journey together in faith and love. May our work be a testament to the glory of God and the transformation of the world.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Commissioning for General Conference Delegates and Volunteers

Almighty God,

As we prepare for the postponed 2020 United Methodist Church General Conference, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation. We recognize the significance of this moment when delegates and volunteers from across the globe will come to Charlotte to serve and represent our worldwide denomination.

We acknowledge Your presence among us, guiding our thoughts, words, and actions as we embark on this sacred journey. Grant us wisdom, discernment, and compassion as we offer hospitality, engage in dialogue, make decisions, and carry out the work of Your Kingdom.

Today, we pray for each delegate and volunteer with a spirit of humility and servant leadership. May they be vessels of Your love, peace, and unity, seeking to build bridges of understanding and reconciliation among all Your children.

Grant them courage to speak truth with grace, strength to stand firm in their convictions, and openness to listen with empathy and respect for differing perspectives.

Bless their efforts with fruitfulness and effectiveness, that through their service, Your purposes may be fulfilled and Your name glorified.

May Your Spirit infuse every interaction, every decision, and every moment of this time of holy conferencing, guiding us towards greater unity, deeper faith, and transformative love.

In Christ's holy and precious name, we pray.

Amen.