



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



## Praying Our Way Forward

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference:  
December 10-16

This guide is designed to help you pray for the Commission on a Way Forward this week. It is not the only way to pray. As you

take time to pray, seek God with all your heart and mind, and be open to the Holy Spirit as God leads you. For more information about Praying a Way Forward, go to [www.umcprays.org](http://www.umcprays.org) and [www.umi.org/prayforward](http://www.umi.org/prayforward).

**December 10-** Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility to be your people in this time and place. We lift up to you the 32 members of the Commission and ask that you guide them in their great responsibility as they do their work on our behalf. Show them the path of wisdom. Amen.

**December 11-** O God, may your Holy Spirit flow into the members of the Commission and into the work they do together. Give them courage to risk new ways to see the Church, new ways to be in relationship as a United Methodist connection, and new ways to share God's love in a hurting and often divided world. Amen.

**December 12-** Holy God, we struggle as a denomination to find ways of honoring a variety of beliefs and at the same time to create pathways to include all of your children. Fill each of us with a reminder of your love for each of us and help us to see your love and grace in each other, especially those with whom we do not agree. Amen.

**December 13-** Jesus, we pray for the future meetings of the Commission. We pray for each member to sincerely seek you. Please give them wisdom, clarity and boldness. Amen.

**December 14-** Dear God, help us to trust you with the future of our denomination. Only you know the way we should go. Help us all to be aware of your constant presence as we seek to follow your Spirit. Amen.

**December 15-** Holy One, we pray for the special General Conference session that will meet February 23-26, 2019. We pray for all of the delegates including the two delegates from our Annual Conference. May you fill them with wisdom, unity and hope. Amen.

**December 16-** Almighty God, we pray for the churches and ministries of our Annual Conference. Remind us of your call to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. Grant us your wisdom in this process. Amen.



### Commission Members:

Jasmine Rose Smothers  
Jorge Acevedo  
Brian Adkins  
Jacques Umembudi Akasa  
Tom Berlin  
Matt Berryman  
Helen Cunanan  
David Field  
Ciriaco Francisco  
Grant Hagiya  
Aka Dago-Akribi Hortense  
Scott Johnson  
Jessica LaGrone  
Thomas Lambrecht  
MyungRae Kim Lee  
Julie Hager Love  
Mazvita Machinga  
Patricia Miller  
Mande Guy Muyombo  
Eben Nhiwatiwa  
Dave Nuckols  
Casey Langley Orr  
Gregory Palmer  
Donna Pritchard  
Tom Salsgiver  
Robert Schnase  
Leah Taylor  
Debra Wallace-Padgett  
Rosemarie Wenner  
Alice Williams  
John Wesley Yohanna  
Alfiado S. Zunguza

### What is the Commission on a Way Forward?

The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to examine paragraphs of the Book of Discipline dealing with LGBTQ inclusion and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

The 32-member Commission is made up of lay and clergy representatives from nine countries on four continents.

### Future Dates of meetings of the Commission

January 17-20, 2018  
March 19-21, 2018  
May 14-17, 2018

### Oregon-Idaho Conference General Conference Delegates

Rev. Donna Pritchard,  
Portland First UMC  
Jan Nelson,  
Morningside UMC (Salem, OR)



Oregon-Idaho Conference  
The United Methodist Church