

A Prayer for General Conference 2020

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Gracious and loving God, who leads, teaches and guides, you who offer compassion, grace and mercy, be with us now. We passionately seek your presence during these challenging times of great debate and discernment for our beloved United Methodist Church.

We, as one part of your Body, go into the days and weeks ahead seeking to discern your deep desire for us, Matthews United Methodist, and The United Methodist Church. Give us courage as we continue to live and respond to your invitation to be your hands, feet and voice.

We ask for a fresh wind of your Spirit, and guidance for each of us as individuals, for Matthews United Methodist and for our global community of United Methodists. We ask for your wisdom and presence for those who have been called to serve as delegates as the General Conference gathers in May. Grant them clarity and a discerning spirit as they seek to listen to you in their midst. Reveal to them your deep desire for our future as a church. Empower them to be at peace with one another as they listen, speak and discern. Soften those who are cynical, empower the fearful, and enable the General Conference to seek and claim the future you desire for your Church.

O God, bless Matthews United Methodist Church, reminding us of the holy work to which you have called us ... to **Reach, Teach, Praise** and **Serve**. Rekindle in us a deeper commitment to Jesus and a firmer grounding in the scriptures no matter what happens in Minneapolis.

Gracious God, we entrust our future into your hands. We choose the way of kindness and humility. We choose not to fear. And we choose holy unity throughout your Church.

We lay all of this before you as the deep desire of our hearts and minds in the name of Jesus, Amen.