

Proposal for a Yellowstone Presbytery and Churches Day of Prayer and Fasting

The Presbytery Prayer Cluster would like to propose that the Leadership Cabinet call a day of Repentance, Prayer and Fasting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 for our nation and for Christ's Church in the world.

Why a Call to Prayer:

1. We sense the nation and the world are troubled now and the Prophet Joel (Joel 2: 12-27), (and other prophets) indicate that God may and should be petitioned by the people of God to purify us and to graciously deliver nations and God's people from trouble and affliction.
2. The nation and the Church are experiencing racial, ideological, economic and spiritual divisions and conflict.
3. The creation is groaning (Romans 8:18-23) – fires, hurricanes, rising seas and Covid-19 indicate a change in climate patterns that are effecting and will have an effect on the world now and for coming generations.
4. The political scene in America is convulsing with partisanship and polarization as we approach the presidential election on November 3, 2020.

John Wesley exhorted Christians: "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may!" Quoted by UMC Bishop Karen Oliveto, April 27, 2017

5. Prayer helps us align our hearts and minds with the mind and heart of God.
 - a. ***Eugene Peterson: "God is at work full-time"***
 - b. ***Henry Emerson Fosdick, (1917): "When anyone believes in the whole God, is sure that he has a wise and good purpose for every child of his, and for all the world, prayer inevitably becomes not an endeavor to get God to do our will, but the endeavor to open our lives to God so that God can do with us what he wants to do (ital. his).***

So we propose the following that...

A day of prayer and fasting be scheduled in Yellowstone Presbytery for...

- a. ...God to mercifully intervene and provide for honest, trustworthy elections.
- b. ...relief from and cessation of Covid-19 and other natural disasters from ravaging the country and the world.
- c. ...for all those hurting and under- and un-employed in this economy.
- d. ...all candidates running for office to be honorable persons of integrity and for the government to function "of the people, by the people, and for the people"(Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, 1863 – "one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all" (Pledge of Allegiance).
- e. ... the Church to be renewed in the Holy Spirit and to rise up in the authority of Christ with a prophetic voice in word, deed and love for justice and evangelism, concern for the poor, and to be concerned for all in body and soul.
- f. ...reaffirming of our Hope and Peace in Christ, who will be exalted among the nations, who will be exalted in the earth; who is with us and our fortress (Psalm 46:10-12).

The Presbytery Prayer Cluster Will...

1. Provide the Leadership Cabinet with an – e-mail- worthy call to prayer.
2. Provide some basic resources for prayer and fasting.
3. Provide dwelling in the word materials for personal study, reflection and prayer.
4. Host One-Hour zoom prayer and intercession gatherings at Noon and at 7:00 PM with guided materials.

Members of the Leadership Cabinet, thank you for giving our proposal your consideration...