

## **Preparing for the Presbytery Meeting with Prayer**

A. W. Pink has written, “*History belongs to the intercessors.*”

### ***An Example from History:***

Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf founded the community of Hernhut in the 1720’s as a refuge for anyone fleeing persecution. Moravian Hussites, Lutherans, Calvinists, and Roman Catholics were all together at one site. As may be imagined, there was plenty of bickering and infighting, for the Calvinists were still praying for the destruction of Rome and the Lutherans were praying for the destruction of the Calvinists!

For three years, this religious bickering and doctrinal mud-slinging continued. Zinzendorf’s response was to break the community into small groups for sharing and prayer. He kept escalating the prayer watch until it was continuing around the clock. Then, on August 13, 1727, Hernhut had its own “Pentecost” at a sunrise service; all present were filled with a powerful measure of the Holy Spirit. This was evidenced by an outpouring of love between those who shared hate only hours before.

At this point only did Hernhut begin to be an effective missionary community. Its explosion of outreach far surpassed the outreach efforts of other Protestant efforts up to that time. And Zinzendorf, seeing the results of unity, went on to promote renewal, seeking to draw all denominations – including Rome – together in a loose network of communication, or, as Richard Baxter put it, “unity without uniformity.”

--- From *The Praying Church Sourcebook*

By Alvin J. Vander Griend, p. 350

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The greatest indication that the Holy Spirit is at work in the life of the presbytery – or any congregation-- is when the Spirit enables an outpouring of Christlike love between Christians prone to disagree. Jesus explains that such love is the mark of His followers (John 13:34-35). And it nearly always happens as a result of unified prayer. Will you please join in praying for such a work, for such Christlike love?

### **As we prepare for the Presbytery meeting, February 22-23, at First Presbyterian Church in Billings, please pray for:**

1. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all of us.
2. That we will “Gather together for God’s glory and spiritual synergy,” as we say in our new vision statement.
3. The Vision Team as it listens to God and to us, helping to position to join God in God’s mission here in Montana.
4. For our new Moderator, Ted Williams, and vice-moderator, Editha McKay.
5. For the Committee on Ministry as it seeks to help 7 of our churches in pastoral transition.
6. For the Camp Committee as it wrestles with God’s direction and provision for Westminster Spires, especially its water supply.
7. For Editha, George and others as they prepare to lead us in worship, prayer, and dwelling in the Word.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you! God’s blessing, strength, love and peace be yours