

## ***Praying for the Uniting Church...***

*Suggestions from Rev Rob Tann – Prayer Convenor and Member of The Reforming Alliance.*

Across our precious Uniting Church at this time the prayer needs are many, diverse, and vital.

- There are situations to pray for, including growth, outreach as well as significant division and loss of people – including ordained leaders and whole congregations...
- There are National and Synod leaders to pray for...
- There are specific people to pray for...
- There are Task Groups and Councils to pray for...
- There are Congregations to pray for...
- There are local clergy and leaders to pray for...
- There are 'pew people' to pray for...

The question often posed is **“How do we pray?”**

*Jesus answered that same question by saying, “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...’ (Matthew 6:9ff & Luke 11:2ff)*

*The Apostle Paul said, “Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for the saints...” (Eph 6:18) Paul also said, “Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6ff)*

*The Lord’s brother, the Apostle James, said: “If anyone lacks wisdom, He should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given...” (Jas 1:5)*

Generally, from a personal viewpoint, I like to...

*Pray **FOR** people, not against them. God alone is judge of the heart of an individual.*

*Pray **INTO** situations, but stand **AGAINST** unrighteousness and ungodliness.*

*Pray **WITH** those of like mind, and **ON BEHALF** of those who are downtrodden and weak.*

*Pray **IN THE SPIRIT** when human words fail, allowing the language of heaven to flow.*

*Pray **PASSIONATELY** but without acrimony when considering leadership or councils of the church, which appear to be outside the Scriptural and traditional foundations of the Church.*

*Pray **GRACIOUSLY**, seeking God’s blessing and saving grace for all the Church. (Rom 12:17-21)*

I believe we need to...

*Pray **FOR** wisdom... Wisdom for leaders, for councils, for preachers, for our selves...*

*Pray **FOR** revival... Revival for the whole church, not just pockets here and there...*

*Pray **FOR** courage... Courage and a holy boldness for the evangelical leadership just like the Lord sought from Joshua (Joshua Ch 1) because the Lord was with him and God’s tomorrow was unfolding.*

*Pray **FOR** the release of the Spirit... Release where sin or unrighteousness blocks His mighty flow.*

*Pray **FOR** opportunities... Opportunities to declare the Gospel and its eternal and unchanging truths.*

*Pray **FOR** righteousness... Righteousness to exalt our nation and our Church as a vital part of the well being of our nation.*

*Pray **FOR** healing... Healing for the church we love and are called to, that she might rise again from her death throes and blossom anew under a fresh outpouring of God’s love and abundant grace.*

A brief word on travailing prayer...

*It is the movement of a baby towards birth that brings the travail/pain. Travail does **not** begin the birth process, but actually **moves the process forward**. That being the case, the pain we feel at present may well be God’s new birth process for the UCA already underway!*