



Southwest Texas Conference Call to Antioch Time of Prayer and Fasting during Epiphany

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. —Acts 13:3

To seek God's direction for our conference concerning New Church Development and Transformation, let us unite in an "Antioch Time" of prayer and fasting following the *Wesleyan Pattern of Prayer and Fasting*.

Let us abstain from solid food after the evening meal each Thursday until mid-afternoon each Friday so we may devote ourselves in prayer for God's direction for our conference's vision of New Church Development. Together, let us:

Entreat the favor of the Lord.
Patiently wait on God.
In Jesus' name, ask.
Persevere in prayer.
Hope for the future.
Approach God with confidence.
Never doubt.
Yoke ourselves to God.

We invite you and your congregation to join in an "Antioch Time of Prayer" for new church development. Epiphany celebrates the light of Christ coming to those seeking God. Through our Epiphany Prayer and Fasting covenant, let us "Offer Christ to All" to the glory of God.

FASTING

Fasting is a significant part of the Christian experience. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days and taught his disciples to fast. First century churches fasted twice weekly. The Methodist Societies continued to observe the fast days of the Church of England. John Wesley wrote, "When you seek God with fasting added to prayer, you cannot seek His face in vain," and "I advise you to keep ... a day of fasting and prayer."

The 2001 World Methodist Conference called upon Methodists around the world to "follow the Wesleyan Pattern of Prayer and Fasting." Methodists in 130 countries are observing this same weekly fast that John Wesley observed most of his life.



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THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer to you the coming day's devotion of prayer and fasting. We thank you for Jesus, our teacher and example. Like Him, may we die to ourselves and thus be made new. Feed now our souls, our minds, our hearts so that in the quiet rest of sleep we may be made ready to offer our praises in the morning. Through Jesus, your Son, our light, our strength, our joy. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

How great and gracious you are, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Move among us as individuals and as a conference that we may be open and receptive to your direction and desire, giving guidance, wisdom and protection as we seek your will for new church development. We dedicate today to the glory of your Name that your Kingdom come among us in the power of the Holy Spirit and in Jesus' name. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Thanks be to you, God, for all your gifts and especially those we shall not enjoy today. Thanks be to you for the inner nourishment of your presence and for new vigor in our prayer through this sign of fasting. Thanks be to you for family, children, friends, neighbors, near and far. Thanks be to you for Jesus, Bread of Life. Amen.

PRAYER FOR BREAKING FAST

To you, God, we have offered this day of prayer and fasting. We pray for a new Epiphany in our conference. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit empower us to be faithful Faith-Sharers of the good news of Christ Jesus. Grant the power of your Holy Spirit that we may serve you faithfully in the world through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

For more information about New Church Development and Transformation contact:

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Portions of this Prayer Card have been adapted with permission from World Methodist Evangelism. (www.WorldMethodist.org)

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