

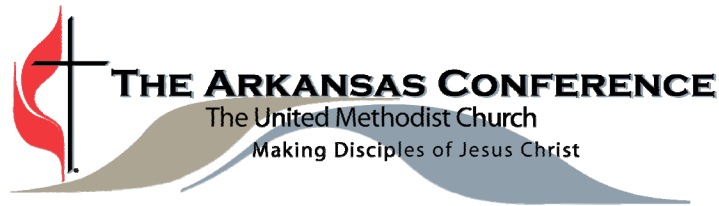
## **AN APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER**

### **“Imagine Ministry” A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer August 1, 2009**

We ask that pastors, prayer groups, teams in the local church, and individuals use the prayer guide as an intentional daily and weekly study for devotions. This prayer guide is available on the conference web site and will be sent out weekly on the conference email network.

#### **Sources:**

- A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer for all who participate in The United Methodist Way.
- Upper Room Books
- General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church
- Scripture quotations are from the NRSV
- Excerpts from “Covenant Renewal Service and Opening Prayer,” copyright 1992 United Methodist Publishing House. Wesley Covenant Service abridged by Ole E. Borgen.
- United Methodist Hymnal



## **AN APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER**

### **“Imagine Ministry” A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer**

**Week One: August 1 – 8, 2009**

Pray for guidance and discernment: If you wish, write that prayer here and use it for the next seven days.

In early Arkansas Methodism, as the frontier pioneers brought their distinct forms and brand of religious freedom to the new land across the Mississippi River. Almost everywhere that people traded or gathered to meet, a Methodist congregation was soon formed out of the network of relationships and faith. Our church had its most rapid growth from the middle of the 1800's to the end of World War II. We are seeing renewed growth in churches that intentionally address the surrounding mission fields in their communities and around the world. New church starts across the conference have made new disciples and inspired hope for the future.

Read Philippians 1:1-11 slowly and prayerfully. What word or phrase stands out for you? Perhaps you may write a similar prayer in your own words that would the spiritual desire of your heart for those who depend on you as their spiritual leader or companion.

Pray for all those who will participate in the “Imagine Ministry” journey over the next two years of the life and ministry of the Arkansas Conference. Pray particularly for those who share leadership responsibilities with you in your annual conference. Pray for a process that starts out on the grass roots level of each local church, individual members and guests of the congregation, that God's Spirit will start here and start a movement of God's people called United Methodist in a new direction in Arkansas.

In your normal experiences of Sunday worship, what gives you genuine joy and hope for the future of The United Methodist Church and your local congregation?

In your normal experiences of Sunday worship, what gives you pain and genuine concern for the future of The United Methodist Church and your local congregation?

What is the prayer God is leading you to pray at this moment?

“The biggest challenge is that we live in a setting permeated by powerful shaping forces for ideals other than the Christian gospel. Naming these competing forces and ideals, within the church and the culture, will be a necessary step in the self-recognition and repentance necessary for renewal in the Methodist renewal. But this must be complemented by wise and effective leadership – both in developing structures, practices and patterns of life that embody the alternative ideals of our tradition; and in discerning those current structures, practices, and patterns of life that must be “let go” in order to embrace the new.” - The United Methodist Way, GBOGM, Convocation for Extended Cabinets, publication.