



Corinth
REFORMED CHURCH
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30 Days of Prayer

August 22nd - September 20th, 2022

For

- *God's blessings and provisions,*
- *The Senior Pastor search process,*
- *The eventual call of a new pastor,*
- *The many changes and transitions involved*

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Jesus Christ throughout all generations for ever and ever." Ephesians 3:20

The Pastor Search Team invites you and your family to enter into 30 days of prayer with us, August 22nd through September 20th. Prayer has been a key factor in the search process for our new senior pastor. In the formative days of the team, we confessed that without prayer our labor to find God's person for Corinth would be in vain. The Pastor Search Prayer Team has labored with us in prayer through these months and if you have not been a part of that team, we hope you will now join us in these 30-days of prayer.

Here is a great perspective on prayer offered by Francis Chan, "When you pray, your prayers are heard by the same God who answered Moses' prayers for water in the desert, the God who gave Abraham and his barren wife a son, and the God who made the slave Joseph second in power only to Pharaoh." God's power nor his love has grown weaker over the millennia! "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15)

We have divided our prayer requests into six categories, prayers for the: 1) Congregation, 2) Pastor Search Team, 3) Pastor Bob and Linda, 4) Remaining Pastors and Staff, 5) New Pastor and Family, and 6) Worship, Praise and Thanksgiving. St. Augustine reminds us that, "Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours." We pray that in this time of corporate prayer, our personal relationship with Jesus Christ will grow more intimate and that we, "...being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3: 17-19)

Prayers for the Congregation

Day 1, Aug. 22th – (1 Peter 5:7) Pray that the pastor search period will be a time the church learns to seek God in a deeper way, that our need draws us closer to our God who cares and provides. “Oh Jehovah-Jireh, you are indeed our God who provides. You have blessed Corinth with gifted pastors and staff who love you with all of their hearts and serve this church faithfully. Now as Bob prepares to leave, turn our eyes upon Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the church.”

Day 2, Aug. 23th – (Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 51:10, Isaiah 58:11) Pray for a powerful congregational renewal, that God’s Holy Spirit will not only search us but will also awaken a spiritual fire in us. “Lord, change is hard and the unknown unsettles us but we turn to you. Renew a right spirit within each of us. We know that you alone satisfy our needs and strengthen our frame. You make us like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. May we experience your renewal in this time of change.”

Day 3, Aug. 24th – (John 13:34, John 17:20-21) Pray for a God-inspired love and unity among all members of Corinth. “Draw this body of believers together in new ways. Lord, empower us to love one another with a love that overcomes, a love that endures, and a love that always shows up whatever the circumstances may be.”

Day 4, Aug. 25th – (Ephesians 4:11-13) Pray for strong consistency and focus on the present ministries of the church. Pray for an enthusiasm and an abundance of those who will serve. “Dearest Lord, may we all enthusiastically participate in building the Body of Christ here at Corinth, in our community, and around the world. May we practice what Pastor Bob has taught us through your word and by his example.”

Day 5, Aug. 26th – (Psalm 27:14, 38: 15) Pray that the congregation will wait expectantly and patiently for God’s timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will. Ask God for His mercy in giving us a pastor who loves him with a fully committed heart, soul, and spirit. “But it is for you, O Lord, that I await; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.” Be strong and of good courage.

Day 6, Aug. 27th – (Ephesians 4:1-6) Pray that the church will have a supernatural unity when the time comes for a call to be made to the new pastor. “Lord, we at Corinth take to heart the saying, ‘In essentials unity, in-non-essential liberty, in all things charity,’ yet we have many different opinions in the non-essentials, different preferences, styles, and needs. You alone know how to give us a pastor who can unite us, who can leave each one of us sensing that you have heard us and you have met our needs.”

Prayers for The Pastor Search Team

Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”*

Philippians 2:3-8: *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

Day 7, Aug. 28th – Pray for each member of the Pastor Search Team to be filled with the Holy Spirit, humble in heart, selfless, and committed to work in love and unity. Pray for each PST member by name: Roger Young, Tim Summers, Steve Brackett, Tracey Bolick, Shirley Huffman, Jordan Faulkner, and Bruce Carlton. “May Christ be their example and their leader.”

Day 8, Aug. 29th – (Colossians 1:9, James 1:5-6) Pray that the Holy Spirit will give the Vanderbloemen Search Group and everyone on the Pastor Search Team wisdom and discernment. Pray that God will make clear to them whom He is calling to Corinth. “Father, we want who you want for us. Give them understanding and may they discern your will.”

Day 9, Aug. 30th – (Psalm 27:14, Romans 12:12, 2 Peter 3:9) Pray for the PST to have no timetable but God’s, to be committed to finding God’s perfect will in God’s perfect time. Pray that the team will deliberately and faithfully carry out the search. “Teach us all to wait on you Lord and to wait expectantly.”

Day 10, Aug. 31st – (Philippians 2:1-8, Matthew 5:16) The reading of resumes and the interview process have a subjective quality to them. Pray that as the PST moves into this phase that personal opinions and preferences will not be paramount. Pray that each member of the team will strive to follow apostle Paul’s advice for unity, having the humble attitude of Jesus Christ. “Lord, may the personalities and diversities of the team members only strengthen the search process as they seek your will.”

Day 11, Sept. 1st – (Isaiah 55:8-9) Pray for God’s direction in how resumes are examined, and interviews conducted. Pray that the team will ask the right questions and represent the church accurately. May the truth make itself known. Ask God to bring the right persons to the attention of the Vanderbloemen Group and then to the PST. “For I acknowledge my thoughts are not like yours, nor are your ways my ways.”

Day 12, Sept. 2nd – (James 1:5-7) Pray for the PST to have wisdom and discernment as to the unique characteristics and traits most needed for this pastor to be able to meet the needs of our church. “Dearest God, may the PST be filled with discernment and the ability to see clearly the unique personalities and gifts of the candidates.”

Day 13, Sept. 3rd – (Hebrews 10:23-25) Pray for wisdom and abilities to keep our congregation involved and updated on the search process. Pray for good communication between the PST, Consistory, and congregation. “Father God, may each member of the congregation feel a sense of peace and confidence when the congregational vote is taken and a new senior pastor is chosen.”

Prayers for Pastor Bob and Linda

Day 14, Sept. 4th – (John 13:34-35) We have been so blessed to have had Bob and Linda for almost 30 years. They have loved us unselfishly, led us wisely, taught us God’s word, and been examples of how lives redeemed in Christ are to be lived. Pray for them in this time of transition with so much uncertainty and so many unknowns. Impress on them our love and gratitude. “Lord, continue to give them wisdom and strength to traverse these months of change. Give them clear minds and may your people here at Corinth shower them with love and support.”

Day 15, Sept. 5th – (Joshua 1:9, Psalm 1:1-3) Pray for Bob and Linda as they prepare for a different season in their lives. May God grant them physical health and strength. The demands on their bodies and spirits have been nearly unending for almost 30 years. Pray that their minds will remain focused on Him and their hearts be filled with joy and gratitude. May they always be poised to respond to God’s call on their lives. “Dearest Lord, may Bob and Linda be like trees planted by streams of water. Refresh them

daily. May their lives continue to bless and may they serve you all the days of their lives.”

Day 16, Sept. 6th – (1 Kings 19: 19-21) Pray that Bob and Linda will have wisdom and clarity in how to turn over their roles to those who will take up their mantles. Pray for wisdom in new structuring of their roles and responsibilities. Pray that important details will not be missed. Pray for a smooth transition among those who have had the privilege of being mentored and the one who will come new. “O Lord, we know you are faithful to all of your people. We may not be Elijah but we are yours. We know that in your eyes, we are not insignificant. Hear our prayers. May the mantles pass well.”

Day 17, Sept. 7th – (Psalm 37:4, Ephesians 3:16-19) Pray for all of the un-lived dreams in Bob and Linda’s lives, the desires of their hearts that have not yet been met. Pray that vision and creativity will remain strong in their lives and their desires for God will only grow stronger. “O Lord, we ask that you continue to give Bob and Linda the desires of their hearts. May their knowledge, understanding, and experience of you grow even more amazing. May they always be a fragrance of Christ in this needy world.”

Day 18, Sept. 8th – (Numbers 6: 24-26) May we continue to ask God’s blessings on Bob and Linda with this prayer (and many others):

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.”*

Prayers for The Remaining Corinth Pastors and Staff

Day 19, Sept 9th – (Joshua 1:9, John 14:27, Romans 15:13) We have been blessed with pastors who love the Lord with all of their hearts, minds and strength, and who serve this congregation selflessly. Each of them will grieve the departure of Pastor Bob and Linda. Pray that God will fill their hearts and minds with joy, peace, and power.

Pray for pastors: Lori Blocker, Paul Cummings, Amy Rinehults, and Kevin Watkins.

Pray for them that “according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that *they* may be strengthened in *their* inner being with power through his spirit, and that Christ may dwell in *their* hearts through faith, as *they* are being rooted and grounded in love.”

Day 20, Sept. 10th – (Joshua 1:9, John 14:27, Romans 15:13, Philippians 4:19-20) Pray for our program staff and support staff who have loved and served with Pastor Bob and Linda over the years. Give them grace to cope with change and to lovingly welcome and support the new pastor.

Pray for: Peter Corneliusen, Director of Music Ministry & Organist; Hannah Anders, Director of Children’s Ministries; and Lauren Everley, Preschool Director.

Pray for Corinth’s support staff: Barbara Roithner, Office Manager; Julie Rickert, Office Assistant; Jan Caldwell, Financial Secretary; Reagan Lail, Technology Coordinator; Joe Lippard, Facilities Manager; Lisa Propst, Kitchen Manager; Ginny Heinrich and Lou Ludwig, Kitchen Assistants; Katie Elder, Communications Coordinator; Patter Cross, Connections Coordinator; and Abigail Hardy, Youth Ministry Assistant.

Pray for them Ephesians 3:16, that “according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that *they* may be strengthened in *their* inner being with power through his spirit, and that Christ may dwell in

their hearts through faith, as they are being rooted and grounded in love.”

Day 21, Sept. 11th – (1 Corinthians 12:14-19, 1 Peter 4:7-11) Pray for our pastors and staff to be creative, to be malleable and able to shift with coming changes. Pray that change will come in the form of great blessing for all involved. Pray they will mesh well with the new pastor and be valuable resources. “Lord, we pray that there will be mutual respect, cooperation, oneness, and overwhelming love among them.”

Day 22, Sept. 12th – (1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 6:10-18) Pray that God will build a hedge of protection around our pastors and staff and that the enemy will not be able to spread his chaos and harm. May they be united as one, always covering each other in prayer and keeping a watchful eye for anything that could threaten their unity and love. “Our great Jehovah-Roi, our protector, protect our pastors and staff from the evil one, as they journey through the many changes and challenges of the coming year.”

Prayers for The New Pastor

Day 23, Sept. 13th – (Jeremiah 3:15, Jeremiah 29:11-13, James 1:17) Pray that our new pastor will humbly seek God’s mind, mercy, and grace; will be gifted with vision for Corinth; will have a shepherd’s heart and will preach and teach God’s word empowered by the Holy Spirit. “Dearest Lord, you have given us so many pictures of a good shepherd and our great need for such. Our new pastor will need many strong qualities to serve Corinth well. We look forward to the person you have chosen for us and believe you have equipped our new pastor with the gifts needed in order for your Name to be honored and for Corinth to be blessed. At the same time, may we offer grace and remember that no human can fulfill all of our expectations. May we allow room for this pastor to grow among us.”

Day 24, Sept. 14th – (Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 30:21) Pray that our next pastor will hear and understand God’s call, will hear God’s voice with clarity and attend to the Holy Spirit’s direction.

“Gracious God, it is not always easy for us to discern your will.

This move will usher in many changes for the new family. We pray that they will hear you say, ‘Whether you turn to the right or the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it. ‘ ”

Day 25, Sept. 15th – (Joshua 1:9, Jeremiah 33:3) Pray that God will protect the new pastor’s heart. Pray for wisdom, courage, and strength during the process of saying goodbyes and leaving, moving, and meeting new people. “Lord, we pray that this grieving process of saying goodbyes and the many challenges of being in new circumstances will only deepen our new pastor’s relationship with you and with us.”

Day 26, Sept. 16th – (Psalm 32:7-8, Zephaniah 3:17, Proverbs 19: 20-21, Matthew 6:33) Pray for unity for our new pastor’s family, friends, and advisors about God’s call to Corinth. Pray that our pastor’s needs will be met by God and by the Body of Christ here at Corinth. Pray for a smooth transition of timing, housing, and, if needed, schools. Pray that our church will embrace the whole family. “Dear Lord, we know that the health of the family is critical and so we ask that this new family will be held by you and by us. We ask that the transition will go smoothly and that they will rely on you to supply their every need.”

Day 27, Sept. 17th – (John 13: 34-35, 1 John 4: 7-12) Pray that our new pastor will immediately like our church and grow into a deep love for Corinth and our community. Pray that our new pastor will enter our church with a great humility, will take advantage of the overlap time with Pastor Bob and seriously begin the process of knowing and caring for our pastors, staff and congregation.

“Dearest Lord, we ask that we will be a good match and that becoming one with us will be a healthy process in which You will show Yourself faithful. May love win.”

Day 28, Sept. 18th – (1 Samuel 18: 1-3) Pray that our new pastor will bond well with all of the pastors and staff. Pray for an immediate bond and a growing vulnerability, trust, and respect. Pray especially for the new pastor’s relationship with Pastor Paul given his visible role in the church. “Dearest Lord, we pray that there will be a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood among the pastors. We pray that personalities will be enjoyed, respected and honored. We pray that the staff will find the new pastor enjoyable and easy to work with.”

Worship, Praise, and Thanksgiving to our Gracious God

Day 29, Sept. 19th – The search process is progressing and there are still many questions to be asked and answered before a final decision is made. Each of us in the Corinth congregation has hopes and fears, as we look into the unknown future. But this we do know, our church belongs to Jesus Christ and he has been and continues to be intimately involved in every concern of our church. (1 Thessalonians 3:16) “May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.” (Romans 15:13) “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Day 30, Sept. 20th – “Lord, this search process has been before you long before it ever entered our minds. We are so thankful you are always far ahead of us, planning elaborate, unimaginable ways to bless us, ways to delight and drench us in your love. We await your choice with thankful hearts. “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20)

“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works...”

Hebrews 10:23-24

Pastor Search Team

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Tim Summers, Co-chair
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