

Southport Presbyterian Church is in the process of seeking dismissal from the PCUSA denomination. The leaders and people of our church are seeking God's will and guidance every step of the way. The following are specific prayer requests for this situation.

1. We need to ask our Heavenly Father for His power, His presence and His wisdom throughout these trying times. Also, pray that everything we are and everything we do will bring glory and praise and honor to our Almighty and Sovereign God and Father.
2. Please pray for Todd Hoopingarner and his sub-committee (Ron Davault, David Lantz and Maureen Watson) as they lead our congregation through this process.
3. Please pray for the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for each of our elders:

Dan Clevenger	Sara Lee	John Purdie
Beth Davis	Scott Miles	Marcy Snow
Ron Davault	David Mills	David Steiner
Ron Epple	Steve McGee	Jim Taylor
Kris Hoopingarner	Mark Myers	John Testa
David Lantz	Steve Philhower	Maureen Watson

Pray Isaiah 11:2 - The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

4. Please pray for our Presbytery and for the people involved in this process from the Presbytery. Pray that their hearts will be open to God's leading throughout the process and that they might know Christ fully in everything they do. Also, pray that this process will be one of harmony for everyone involved and that we at SPC will be able to show Christ's love in all of our dealings with them.

Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter
Gary Shaw, Stated Clerk
Martha McDonald, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry
Hitch Learned, Moderator of the Presbytery
Sandra Reid, Moderator of the Prebytery Council

5. Pray for the listening sessions that will be held by the Presbytery in the following way:
 - that the deacons who will be asked to help with scheduling these sessions will volunteer which will ease the burden on the sub-committee;
 - that all the members of the congregation will take the time necessary to become truly informed about the facts of the situation before forming and expressing opinions during the listening sessions;
 - that these listening sessions will be set up in a timely fashion and that a majority of the members of our congregation will respond and participate.
6. Please pray that this entire process is open, transparent, respectful and honoring to God.

The following items have been taken from a prayer card* as they seemed especially appropriate for our church during this time:

- 1) Holy Spirit, lead us to level ground. Show us ways we grieve, quench or resist You. We live by You; help us keep in step with You. Reign in us so we experience Your freedom. (Ps. 143:10; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19; Acts 7:51; 2 Cor. 3:17)
- 2) We desire to be pure and obedient so our love for each other will be sincere and from the heart. Give us a spirit of unity so we glorify You with one heart and voice. Help us accept one another in love. (1 Pet. 1:22; Ro. 5:5-7; Col. 3:14)
- 3) Remind us that sharing with others is a pleasing sacrifice to You. Keep us outwardly focused so we **don't** become **self-absorbed**. Enable us to extend mercy to people in every kind of need. (Heb. 13:16; Phil. 2:4; Jude 2-3)
- 4) Help us as we struggle with sin. Keep us from the enemy's condemnation. Thank You for doing away with sin on the cross so we are no longer slaves to it. Help us throw off everything that entangles and to persevere in this race. (Ro. 6:6, 8:1; Heb. 12:1)
- 5) Protect and deliver us from the evil one. May we be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves as we deal with him. Show us how to test every spirit. Help us recognize the enemy's schemes so he won't outwit us. (Mt. 6:13, 10:16; 1 Jn. 4:1; 2 Cor. 2:11)
- 6) Make us a **house of prayer!** We want to pray first, always and continually with thanks. May each of us recognize that this is Your desire for all, not just a few. Transform us into righteous men and women whose prayers are powerful and effective. (Mk. 11:17; 1 Thess. 5:17-18; Ps. 32:6; Jas. 5:16)
- 7) Revive us so we burn hot for **You**. Give us singleness of heart and action that we may always fear You and follow Your precepts. Open our minds to Your Word and set our hearts ablaze within us. (Rev 3:14-16; Jer. 32:39; Ps. 111:10; Lk. 24:32, 45)
- 8) Encourage our pastoral staff when ministry gets tough. Help them remain faithful with the things You've entrusted to them. (2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:1-3)

**Life-Giving Prayers for Your Church* – Copies available in the Prayer Room (north end of the Worship Center) if you desire to have one personally.

Dutch Sheets, in his book *Intercessory Prayer*, quotes Andrew Murray as follows: “God’s giving is inseparably connected with OUR asking... Only by intercession can that power be brought down from heaven which will enable the church to conquer the world.”