

For everything there is a season, and  
a time for every matter under heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1



## A Season of Prayer For Our Clergy & Congregations

The following is offered as a guide for use both in corporate worship and in personal prayers and devotion. From February 8<sup>th</sup> to the Friday of “appointment week” is 40 days.

**Week 1:** February 8-14

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11-16 “and his gifts were that some should be...”

**Reflection:** What are the ministries in our church? What all does a “preacher” have to do?

**Prayer:** For those in authority in the church, that they may have discernment for God’s purposes and the opportunities to further God’s will, and for each congregation, that they may be faithful to God’s calling.

**Week 2:** February 15-21

**Scripture:** Romans 10:14-15 “how are they to hear without a preacher?”

**Reflection:** Who has brought the Word of God to me and to those near me?

**Prayer:** For the Lord to raise up pastors to preach Christ and to care for his Church.

**Week 3:** February 22-28

**Scripture:** II Corinthians 3:4-12 “who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant...”

**Reflection:** What are the gifts and graces needed to draw people to Christ and to guide people in discipleship?

**Prayer:** For the gifts and graces of all of our pastors in Holston Annual Conference to be used boldly for God’s purposes.

**Week 4:** March 1-7

**Scripture:** II Timothy 1: 8-14 “Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord...”

**Reflection:** What strengths are needed to be faithful in the call to ministry in every change or circumstance?

**Prayer:** For the purposes of God to be met in all of the changes that take place and for transitions to be good.

**Week 5:** March 8-14

**Scripture:** John 14:18-27 “Peace I give to you...”

**Reflection:** What changes do we fear? Do we trust God to be with us?

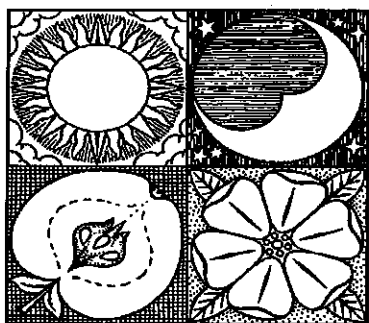
**Prayer:** For those pastors, families and congregations who are experiencing the grief of leaving while at the same time anticipating new leadership and new places of service.

**Week 6:** March 15-20 “Appointment Week”

**Scripture:** II Corinthians 12:9 “My grace is sufficient for you...”

**Reflection:** What does it mean to “trust” in the midst of unexpected changes?

**Prayer:** For those pastors, families, and congregations experiencing an unexpected change in pastoral leadership.



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## **A Season of Prayer For Our Clergy & Congregations**

A review has begun for the “Fixing of the Appointments” at Annual Conference in June. All of the appointments are reviewed by the Cabinet every year. A number of factors arise in the process of review that have to be considered: the desires of the local church, the needs of the Conference for particular gifts and talents, and the pastor’s assessment of their circumstances in their congregations and personal and family lives. Discernment of the varying needs of church, pastor, and conference so that our pastors are most effectively deployed for the advancement of God’s Kingdom IS the vital business of the appointment making process.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committees participate in the process. Each minister of the conference has a time of consultation. The Bishop and Cabinet (all the District Superintendents) gather the input from each of these, plus the information from retirements, leaves of absence, departures from ministry, and new pastors. As all of these factors are considered the recommendations and decisions clearly need to be undergirded by prayer.

Prayers for wisdom are part of all of the Cabinet discussions for we realize the life and Kingdom changing impact of these decisions. We do ask our churches and people to also be in prayer during this time. Please pray for the gifts of discernment and vision to be with us, and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all of the work of the appointment process. Pray that we will follow our Wesleyan “Simple Rules” both in the appointment-making process and in every congregation: Do no harm; Do good; and Stay in love with God. Pray that we will all share in the commitment to Offer Them Christ as we work together, clergy and laity alike, for the good of God’s Kingdom being made known on earth as it is in heaven.