



## COURSE CONTENT DOCUMENT (For both group and self-study formats)

### TITLE: Prayers of the People

*Designation: Core Requirement for All Layreaders*

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#### Overview

The Prayers of the People are the response of the community to the proclamation of the word. The Prayers of the People provide a time of intercession and public prayer in worship using a well defined sequence while covering specific content. They are also an initial step in a commitment to action. The movement of the Prayers of the People is from the world and the universal Church, to local churches and community, to individual and personal needs. While there is a wide variety in actual use, traditionally the elements of the petitions and thanksgiving are:

- The Church Universal, its members, and its mission
- The welfare of the world (including current events)
- The Nation and leaders in authority
- The concerns of the local community
- Those who suffer, are in any trouble, or have immediate need
- The departed Fathers and Mothers of the Faith

**NOTE:** Although this course provides a variety of examples of preparing Prayers of the People, it is the layreaders responsibility to follow and adhere to the preferences and advice of the clergy in charge of the parish in which they are licensed when writing and delivering prayers.

#### Objectives

On completion of this course and as a layreader, you should be able to:

1. Know where to find litanies in our liturgical books.
2. Describe the core structure of prayers of the people.
3. Know where to find resources to help develop prayers of the people.
4. Understand how to adapt litanies to add original content or write original prayers.
5. Be able to cue congregational responses to prayers of the people.

#### Reading Assignment

1. [Course Notes](#) by the Rev. David Peer
2. Anglican Fellowship of Prayer [Handbook for Readers and Intercessors](#)

#### Video Assignment

1. Watch the video from the Layreaders' Association of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLNv5PvA67o&feature=youtu.be>

#### Practical Assignment

1. View the Rev. David Peer's [course video](#), following along with his [presentation notes](#).

2. Read:

- i. [A Model to Follow](#)
- ii. [Prayers of the People Examples](#)
- iii. [Suggestions for Leading Intercessions](#)
- iv. [BCP Lay Led Intercessions](#)

3. Read the [Course Assignment document](#) and develop Prayers of the People for a Sunday of your choosing using the resources listed in that and this document.

4. Working with your incumbent arrange to lead the Prayers that you have developed. After you have led the Prayers of the People you developed have your incumbent contact the Warden of Layreaders at [wardenoflayreaders@anglican.nb.ca](mailto:wardenoflayreaders@anglican.nb.ca) and the Warden will credit you with course completion.

### Pause and Consider

1. Your key learning moment.
2. Could the content be improved to suit your needs. Share your observations on the online course evaluation.

### Supplementary Resources & References

Use resources as a source, an example, or a guide to help with intercessions

- BCP pp 30-64, BAS pp 236-238, and BAS pp 110-129, 675-683, 691
- *Leading Intercessions* by Raymond Chapman
- *Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship* by Susan Sayers
- The Vanderbilt Divinity Library Lectionary and Prayer <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>
- Diocesan Prayer site: Let Us Pray <http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/prayer/resources/>
- Diocese of Springfield Prayers of the People [www.episcopalspringfield.org/prayers-of-the-people/](http://www.episcopalspringfield.org/prayers-of-the-people/)
- St Paul's Episcopal Church <http://stpaulsfay.org/sunday-schedule/prayers-of-the-people/>

#### PRINTED RESOURCES & REFERENCES

- *Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada*. Anglican Book Centre: Toronto, 1985.
- *Book of Common Prayer*. Anglican Book Centre: Toronto, 1962.
- Chapman, Raymond. *Leading Intercessions* Enlarged Edition. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2006.
- Gibson, Paul. *Make Preparation: Liturgy Planning Notes*. Anglican Book Centre: Toronto, 2009.
- Handbook for Readers and Intercessors," Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, Booklet P/G32 (revised Feb 2004) [anglicanprayer.org/resources/PG-32\\_Readers\\_and\\_Intercessors\\_Handbook.pdf](http://anglicanprayer.org/resources/PG-32_Readers_and_Intercessors_Handbook.pdf)
- Pritchard, John. *Leading Intercessions; creative ideas for public and private prayer*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2004.
- Sayers, Susan. *Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship*. Kevin Mayhew Ltd: 1999.

#### WEBSITE RESOURCES & REFERENCES

- St Paul's Episcopal Church <http://stpaulsfay.org/sunday-schedule/prayers-of-the-people/>
- Various resources for liturgical planning organized by Sunday [www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com)