GC Prayer Vigil

Bishop Connie Shelton



North Carolina, United Methodists, what's the one thing that centers our life together? Think about it. Prayer. Prayer is the one thing that holds our lives together. Our openness, awareness to God's presence with us. Our listening deeply to the spirit, our making our request known to God. Our confessions, our praises, our collective love for God and one another. That's prayer.

We do that in lots of ways. We've encouraged you over the last year, and I hear many of you continue to do it, to attend the app <u>Pray As You Go</u>. It is, has a daily meditation. I do it each morning, as part of my devotional life. And it centers us in scripture, reflection and prayer.

Take time to be centered in prayer. I've been super inspired over these last weeks and months as the Cabinet has been making appointments for pastors transitioning to new places, new congregations in our connectional life, and the prayers that different pastors have put forward each week praying for the transitions. Thank you. Church, continue to pray because it's not just about making the appointment, it's about the appointment unfolding and sharing life together.

Lastly, we have a really big event coming up. Have you heard? General Conference is finally coming our way in the end of April and the first of May, we'll be in Charlotte, North Carolina, and we wanna give you an opportunity to participate. Some of you are practicing your discipleship by serving at the General Conference. Others are doing particular things in preparation. Some of you are participating in feeding ministry opportunities and mission, but we want all of you to have an opportunity to specifically take a 15-minute interval to pray. On April the 21st, we'll have a 24-hour period set aside, and you can click the link below and sign up for a 15-minute window so that we are praying continuously as the body in North Carolina for General Conference and the future of The United Methodist Church.

Please take time to participate. God is among us, and we are called to pray and we are called to live the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.