

***A Season of Listening Prayer
and Reflection Together***
Month of June 2019

Over the past year, we have been trying to hear what God is calling the Mennonite Church of Normal to be as a community that includes LGBTQIA+ people. We appointed a Design Team who led us in a survey, an Adult Sunday School class, and table listening sessions. Now we come to a time of focused, prayerful listening.

We, the Church Board and the Pastors, invite us all to a season of prayerful listening and spiritual reflection. We ask you to devote yourselves to listening to God, individually and corporately, during the month of June.



Lord
listen to
your
children
Praying

At the end of this season of listening, **everyone is encouraged to write a Response to the Board about what you have been sensing and hearing as you have listened to God in prayer.** This allows every voice to contribute and share what has been heard during the focused time with God.

1. What is God laying on your heart in this season of listening, concerning the Mennonite Church of Normal, and LGBTQIA+ individuals who are (or desire to be) a part of the life of this congregation?
2. What is God laying on your heart in this season of listening, concerning yourself, and LGBTQIA+ individuals who are (or desire to be) a part of the life of this congregation?

The last Sunday in June, we will dedicate these prayerful listening Responses from the congregation, asking God's blessing upon them. The Board and the Pastors will carefully study these messages. With more listening for God's guidance, a statement will be created by the Board that reflects what they have discerned as God's call for MCN moving forward. This will culminate our year long process.

The Prayer Guide on the other side is for your use each week. It includes a prayer theme for the four weeks, and offers options for scriptures, hymns, prayer prompts and prayer activities at church. Sunday worship services in June will include a time of prayer centering on the theme for the week. **May God guide and direct us as we strive to listen, worship and serve God together.**

Week of	Prayer Theme	Scriptures	A Hymn for the Week and Prayer Prompts	Prayer Activity
June 2-8	<i>Loved by God to Love God, Self, Others</i>	Jer 31:3 Rom 8:39 John 4:19-21 Ephs 3:14-21 Mark 12:33	<i>Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying</i> – HWB 352 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BK3KJTyUqX0 God is love. How does God's love <i>for me</i> root and ground me? How does God's unconditional love for me produce my love for God? How does God's love to us in Jesus help us love ourselves and others? What might that look like at MCN?	PRAYER WALK Come to the church and walk the Prayer Walk on your own OR use the Prayer Walk Guide on your own at home and take the Prayer Walk in your imagination. Prayer Walks at Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weds, Jun 5, 6:30 pm • Sat, June 8, 10:00 am
June 9-15 Pentecost Sunday	<i>The Holy Spirit works in times of pain and distress.</i>	Gen 1:2 Gen 4:6 Rom 8:26-27 Isa 41:10 John 14:25-27 Ps 23 Ps 27:1 Eph 2:14	<i>If you Believe and I Believe</i> – STJ 32 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUopVtrKSno When there's pain, distress or chaos, what might the Holy Spirit be doing? Of what am I afraid? What words of peace from Jesus do I long to hear? In the midst of chaos, pain or distress, how does the Holy Spirit empower us to do what God is calling? https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094FAAA87-aseason	PRAYER VIGIL Sign up for our Prayer Vigil on June 15 and spend a half-hour in prayer for our congregation, seeking the Spirit's guidance to us in time of many transitions. <<< Link to sign up for Prayer Vigil in box to left
June 16-22	<i>Christ in the Least of These: Our Confession and Repentance</i>	Prov 14:31 John 15:13 John 14:15-31 Matt 25:40 Philippians 1:27-2:11	Who might be hurting in our congregation that God is laying on your heart? Because we are human, we fail to love as well as God does. Is there any failure in loving of which God might be inviting you to confess? What could repentance look like for you? What might it confession and repentance look like for us as a congregation? <i>Gentle Shepherd</i> – HWB 353 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV0dy6xM_gg	PRAYERS AT THE CROSS and PRAYER ROOM Come pray at the Cross in the atrium. Visit the Prayer Room and read personal statements by a few LGBTQIA+ persons in our congregation and their families.
June 23-29	<i>Blessed to Be a Blessing</i>	Gen 12:1-3 Matt 10:8b Romans 12:13 Hebrews 13:16 1 Peter 4:9 James 1:25	<i>Praise, I Will Praise You Lord</i> – HWB 76 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWuTvpivEmY Loved and forgiven, we can receive joy in blessing others. How do you receive joy in blessing others? How do you sense God is calling MCN to be a blessing?	RESPONSE CARDS Listening to God Prayer Response Cards will be passed out in worship. Share what you have sensed from listening to God in prayer this month. Bring to June 30 worship.
June 30	<i>Growing a Culture of Care and Generosity</i>		RESPONSE CARD 1. What is God laying on your heart in this season of listening, concerning the Mennonite Church of Normal , and LGBTQIA+ individuals who are (or desire to be) a part of the life of this congregation? 2. What is God laying on your heart in this season of listening, concerning yourself , and LGBTQIA+ individuals who are (or desire to be) a part of the life of this congregation?	OFFER RESPONSE CARDS IN WORSHIP Cards received as an offering to God in worship OR return by July 15 (or email) to church office.