



## PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



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### BISHOP'S INVITATION TO PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/greaternw/wayforwardpnw>

#### TRANSCRIPT

When I was a little girl in Sunday School and in church with my parents, we sang "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" and we sang "Jesus Loves All the Children of the World" AND we sang, "For the Beauty of the Earth." From these songs, and from lots of prayers and teaching, I grew up knowing that there was a loving God who had created the whole world, loved each one of us, and wanted the world to be a peaceful and happy place, a healthy place.

I'm a bishop in the church today because Jesus invited me, and you, to join that mission of loving people, caring for people; helping people to live full lives. And through the Church we have fed people and educated people, provided healthcare to people, and opened doors to opportunity as God would have us do; as Jesus showed us that we should do.

But even in the Church when we are trying to help people and be partners with God, sometimes we don't understand what God is asking us to do in the same way. And so we get into conflict. This was true in the very early church; the very earliest followers of Jesus didn't always see things the same.

In The United Methodist Church today we're struggling with what God's love looks like in human relationships. The bishops of the church are inviting United Methodists around the world to pray for the 2019 General Conference. As we anticipate that General Conference, there's a Commission on the Way Forward that's bringing proposals for how we might live together peacefully. They are working very hard, and the bishops are inviting United Methodists across the world to pray for that commission and for the Way Forward that will be considered in 2019.

United Methodists in the Pacific Northwest Conference are asked to pray from November 26th through December 2nd. Every day that week, the conference will offer a prayer on the website that you can join with your family, or a group of friends, a Bible study, or the choir at the church, to pray together so that our Church will be vital, engaged, and supportive of one another in a variety of contexts far into the future, serving God's purposes, the fullness of life, for all of creation.

And now I ask you to join me, just right now, in praying that we all might be one in the Church, as God and Jesus are one, so that the world might believe that God has sent us. Amen.