

Report on Online Prayer - November 2021

By SDC Member Maria Rudolph

The prayer group is open to anyone who would like to pray into the space of the ordination of women and men in our Church. We have people from QLD, SA and WA joining regularly as well as occasional other people joining in. Prayers vary depending on what is particularly on people's heart at the time, but generally we pray for the members of the LCANZ whom we know and whom we don't know who are either women in ministry, pursuing their call into ordained ministry and for people who support these people. We regularly pray for our bishops and pastors, for the ALC and their staff and students, we have prayed extensively before Synod and are continuing to do so as we are preparing for the second round next year. That includes the voting for positions and proposals. Above all we pray for God to show us the way, for all things that are ungodly to fall away and for the way of Christ to increase and grow. We pray that we and all people in our Church can be filled with the Holy Spirit and bind up any influence that pursues the ways of people and the rules of men (literally in our Church), instead of the will of God for our Church. We pray for protection for various people in our Church.

I strongly believe that prayer needs to undergird all our efforts of making a change toward ordaining both women and men in our Church. God needs to open the door for our Church to stop fighting internal fights about WHO can preach and administer the Sacrament and to move toward supporting all our people in this godly endeavour to share Christ in all the ways we are called, gifted and willing to serve.

The prayer group is a safe place where everyone is valued. We spend a short amount of time sharing what we might pray for and what has been going on for us recently, reading Scripture, and then praying. We sometimes laugh and occasionally shed some tears. I realise the time we meet is not ideal for many or any of us but we try our best to connect with each other across multiple time zones and our diversely different schedules. The prayer group is always very open to anyone giving it a go, popping in, and/or for people to send in their specific prayer requests through my email address rudolph_maria@icloud.com

Many blessings,
Maria