

## PRAYER BASED ON TAMBO RESPONSES

### Introduction

This prayer has been woven together using the responses from the TAMBO questionnaire. Church members responded passionately, and at length, describing what they are grateful for, what matters to them, and how they see the church's role. This prayer uses their words to describe their hopes for what Peninsula United will do and be - for ourselves, our community and the wider world.

Let us pray.

### Community

Over these last months, we have had a deep yearning to be present together with our church community. Today, we come together in prayer, even as we are physically apart, giving thanks for the love and support of this, our church family.

We give thanks that our online church services and activities that have enabled us to connect spiritually. As we are able, let us continue to nurture each other, and be nurtured.

### God's Love

We give thanks for the gospel message, and pray that we can enable our church to become a catalyst of God's love, which opens up through us into love in the world.

We give thanks for knowing that you, Lord God, are there for us whenever we need to reach out. As people of faith, we commit to endeavouring to live as Jesus taught us, loving others as we are loved by you.

### **Welcome**

Help us to create a place in this community where all people will know they are welcome and accepted in love, and without reservation, regardless of background, colour, or sexual identification. That every person, as a child of God, is welcome to join with us as we celebrate together, mourn together, show gratitude for the riches of life together, and pledge to care for one another. We give thanks for your all encompassing love, and we will endeavour to share that in our church community, and beyond.

Help us to create an open-hearted, non-judgmental church home where spiritual seekers are welcome, especially those searching for deeper meaning in their lives, who want to develop their spiritual side, and who want to explore their faith questions without prescriptive answers. Help us to give them a place of hope, inspiration, love and support for their journey.

### **Going out into the World**

We give thanks for your gifts of faith, love, and hope, and commit to using those gifts as we engage with one another and with the wider community.

You have blessed us with a congregation comprised of individuals with resolve, talent, and enthusiasm. Help us to nurture them here with us, that they may offer these gifts in the world.

We pray this church community will challenge each of us to be the best version of ourselves, more caring, welcoming, seeking, involved, and able to imagine bigger things.

Let all of us be faithful witnesses in the world, with Jesus as our guide, providing love and hope in these uncertain, polarized times.

Every day, help us demonstrate, through our living, the Love we profess.

## **Gospel Message**

We give thanks for our ministers, and for their thoughtful and intelligent sermons and teachings on the deeper meaning of the Bible and of spirituality.

Through their messages, and through study and prayer, help us strengthen our spiritual foundation and our understanding of how the gospel message and the teachings of Jesus connect to today's realities.

In this time of deep societal anxiety, help us look afresh at the gospel. Guide us in developing ways of living in a new world.

## **Aging Members**

We give thanks for our older members who have worked very hard over the years, contributing greatly to the work of our church. Many are dealing with major health challenges and we pray for them, and with them.

We pray especially for our members in care facilities who have been unable to have visitors for the last three months, and for their families and friends who want to be with them but cannot. May your loving presence comfort them, as we do our best to help and support them.

## **Social Justice**

We hear your call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly, leading us to healing of ourselves and others, empowered by the Christ in all.

Give us the courage to be bold in our conversation. Let us live the story of your "Good News" through our caring and sharing within our community here and abroad. We pray that this, your church, may be a place where disciples are created and empowered, and that we, as your faithful and humble servants, become catalysts for social justice on the Peninsula and beyond.

Guide us as we contemplate and listen for the needs of this new world. Show us how to change and adapt as we engage with the challenges of poverty, homelessness, marginalization, and our own position of privilege in our society.

## **Becoming One Church**

As we reflect on how we might live our faith, we ask that you support, guide and inspire us in discerning your unfolding plan for us as an amalgamated church community.

We know there are some among us who are still adjusting to being in a different church community, who are missing people who chose not to attend, and who continue to feel more like visitors than members

. We pray for your guidance in showing us how to become one, united, congregation, as we reach out to each other in a faithful, personal way, that we may all become fully engaged members of this community of faith.

## **Moving Forward**

We give thanks for the creative talents within our church community, who have allowed our doors to remain open wide through the use of technology, as we experience church in a different way for a different time. We give thanks that we have been able to continue to offer messages of hope through scripture, music, message and prayer.

And in this time of Covid-19, we humble ourselves in our unknowing and listen for your Holy spirit to reveal our next steps. Inspire us to move forward boldly. Help us to see this unexpected situation as a gift - an awakening as to how interconnected the human race is. Guide us in thinking through how to use our effort and resources, as we search for new ways to love one another better.

Be with us as we develop new ways of worship, of utilizing our assets, and involving the community. Help us to adapt and to change as we rethink our relationship with you, with the Earth, and with our Faith Community.

In our hearts, we know that we are called to bear witness to your presence in the world. Be with us as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father who art in heaven.....