FOUNDATIONS METHODIST CHURCH | 700 N. MAIN STREET | MCALLEN, TEXAS 78501

We are a people sharing the good news and building a firm foundation for faith by (1) speaking truth, (2) extending grace, and (3) remaining salt and light to the world.

FOUNDATIONS OF PRAYER

For the Next Step in Our Journey

A Season of Fervent Prayer, Unguarded Discernment, and Faithful Obedience

As *Foundations Methodist Church* approaches the third anniversary of our life together as a congregation, we find ourselves standing at another important threshold in our journey.

For these first years, God has graciously provided a place for us to gather, worship, learn, fellowship, and grow together. Week after week, faithful people have set up chairs, prepared our worship space, welcomed God's people, and then taken everything down again when our worship was complete.

Now we sense that God may be preparing us for the next chapter.

We do not yet know where that chapter will lead. We do not know whether God will provide another temporary place in which to worship, open the door to a permanent church home, place an unexpected opportunity before us, or lead us somewhere we have not yet considered.

But we know the One who leads us. Therefore, before we search for property, before we calculate what we can afford, before we begin making plans, and before we decide what we believe should happen, *we will pray*.

Our first responsibility is *not to find a building*. Our first responsibility is *to follow Jesus*.

And so we ask every member and friend of *Foundations Methodist Church* to join us in making these *five commitments* a foundation of prayer beneath *everything* we do.

Day 1: Pray that we will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25 - NIV

Holy Spirit, lead us.

- Before we develop our plans, lead us.
- Before we choose our direction, lead us.
- Before we decide what is possible or impossible, lead us.

Give us ears to hear what you are saying to your church and hearts willing to obey when you speak.

Keep us from running ahead of you because we are impatient, and keep us from lagging behind you because we are afraid. Protect us from confusing our preferences with your purposes or our plans with your will.

When you open a door, give us the courage to walk through it. When you close a door, give us the wisdom not to force it open.

Make us sensitive to your presence, attentive to your voice, and obedient to your direction.

Holy Spirit, teach *Foundations Methodist Church* to keep in step with you. *In Jesus' name, Amen*.

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Day 2: Pray that we will give God the room and space to work.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5 - NIV

Gracious God, give us enough faith to leave room for you to surprise us. Our vision is limited. Yours is not.

We can see buildings, budgets, locations, square footage, parking spaces, possibilities, and problems. But you can see what we cannot see. You know (1) the people we have not yet met, (2) the opportunities we have not yet discovered, and (3) the ministry you are already preparing for us.

Keep us from deciding too quickly what our future must look like, and give you the elbow room to work among us. Help us

- Listen before we speak,
- Pray before we decide,
- Discern before we commit,
- Trust before we act, and
- Obey before we understand.

Show us not merely where we would like *Foundations Methodist Church* to be located, but where you need this congregation to be located in order to accomplish the kingdom work to which you have called us. And when your answer is different from what we expected, give us faith to say, "Yes, Lord. We will follow." *In Jesus' name, Amen*.

Day 3: Pray that God will put his Word into the hearts of his people.

You do not have because you do not ask God.

James 4:2 - NIV

Lord, enlarge the circle of people praying with us.

Give us the courage to tell others what you are doing at *Foundations Methodist Church*. Put our need upon the hearts of people throughout McAllen and beyond—*friends, neighbors, business leaders, property owners, other congregations, community leaders, brothers and sisters in Christ, and people we may not even know today*.

We believe that what you call your people to do, you are able to provide for that kingdom work. So we ask you boldly to provide the relationships we need, the opportunities we need, the property we need, the wisdom we need, and the financial resources we will need.

- Somewhere there may be a person who knows about the very place you are preparing for us.
- Somewhere there may be someone whom you are already prompting to help.
- Somewhere there may be an opportunity that has not yet crossed our path.

Connect your people with your purposes. And when you provide, make us quick to recognize that the provision came from your hand, *and to give you all the glory*. *In Jesus' name, Amen*.

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Day 4: Pray for our pastor and for the leadership God will require.

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all…

James 1:5 - NIV

Lord Jesus, we pray especially for Pastor Bob Kirby as he leads us through this important season in the life of our congregation.

Give him wisdom beyond his own wisdom, vision beyond what he can presently see, patience when the way is unclear, courage when difficult decisions must be made, and humility always to seek your will above his own.

Surround him with faithful people who will pray with him, encourage him, counsel him, challenge him when necessary, and share the responsibility of discerning your direction. Protect him from carrying burdens you never intended him to carry alone.

Give our Leadership Team unity without demanding uniformity, wisdom without pride, courage without recklessness, and faith without presumption.

Above everything else, make Pastor Bob Kirby and every leader among us faithful followers before we attempt to be leaders. We welcome others to come alongside us.

May we never ask this congregation to go anywhere that we ourselves have not first been willing to follow Jesus. Anyone engaged in praying for *Foundations Methodist Church* is engaging in this very commitment, which is the truest example of choosing to take up one's cross and follow him. *In Jesus' name, Amen*.

Day 5: Pray that everything we do will rest upon a foundation of prayer.

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Psalm 127:1 - NIV

Almighty God, make prayer the foundation beneath this entire journey.

- Before the meetings, let us pray.
- Before the property visits, let us pray.
- Before the financial discussions, let us pray.
- Before the negotiations, let us pray.
- Before the decisions, let us pray.

And after every door you open and every provision you make, let us pray again—*this time with thanksgiving*. Do not allow us merely to ask you to bless what we have already decided to do. Instead, teach us to discover what you are already doing and then faithfully join you there.

Remind us that we are not simply searching for a building. We are seeking a place *from* and *in* which disciples can be made, Scripture can be taught, children and families can be nurtured, hurting people can discover grace, neighbors can be served, the gospel can be proclaimed, and Jesus Christ can be lifted high.

Whatever you provide, keep us from ever confusing the building with the Church. We are your Church. The building will simply be another tool placed into our hands for the work of your kingdom. *In Jesus' name, Amen*.

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Day 6: Our Prayer for the Journey Ahead

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Nearly three years ago, you called *Foundations Methodist Church* into being. You have sustained us, provided for us, taught us, stretched us, and brought us farther than we could have traveled on our own.

And now another step lies before us. We do not know exactly where you are taking us, but we know that we want to go there with you. So lead us.

Go before us into places we have not yet seen. Prepare conversations we have not yet had. Introduce us to people we have not yet met. Open the doors through which you desire us to walk, and firmly close those that would take us away from your purposes.

Give us patience enough to wait for you, faith enough to trust you, wisdom enough to recognize your direction, courage enough to step out when you call, and obedience enough to follow wherever you lead.

- Guard us against fear.
- Guard us against impatience.
- Guard us against settling for what is convenient when you may be calling us toward something greater.

And guard us also against attempting something simply because it is impressive when you are calling us instead to something faithful.

Give us the place that will best enable *Foundations Methodist Church* to accomplish your mission, in your way, in your time, and for your glory.

Holy Spirit, fill this congregation. Create within us an expectancy that causes us to pray boldly, listen carefully, give generously, speak freely to each other and to all who would listen about what God is doing, and watch faithfully for the doors you may be opening around us.

And when the day comes that we walk into the place you have prepared, may we look back upon this season and say with absolute confidence: God led us. God provided for us. God opened the way. And we followed. Until that day, keep us faithful.

We are stepping out, Lord—not because we know where every step will lead, but because we know the One we are following. Lead on, Holy Spirit. *Foundations Methodist Church* is listening.

In the strong and saving name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. *In Jesus' name, Amen*.

Our Commitment

1. We will pray before we plan the future.
2. We will listen before we decide what action we are to take.
3. We will trust when we cannot see the road ahead.
4. We will follow faithfully and obediently when God leads us into the unknown.
5. We will glorify God for what he provides as a result of our faithfulness to him.

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