

FACULTY PRAYER GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE:

Thanksgiving/Praise: Praise and thanksgiving help us realize that God is already at work and opens us to a positive frame of mind.

Confession and Lament: Lament names the pain and brokenness we experience as individuals and in community. Confession releases our own and our community's sin and responsibility. Both enable us to receive God's forgiveness and freedom and lead to a posture of humility. Note: Lament is easier to do in prayer than confession. Confession is rather personal. So, start with a lament. Then pause and let others express prayers of lament. But then, step in again with your own prayer of confession, then leave space for any others who might feel free to also confess something personal.

Discernment/Petition and Intercession: We end with "asking for stuff." Thanking God and confessing leads to deeper clarity about what we most need to ask for, and so we now freely ask.

The person who leads should give clear direction about how prayer will proceed.

- Emphasize that we will only pray prayers of thanksgiving for the first 5 (if you are doing 15 minutes) or 10 (if you are doing 30 minutes) of the prayer time.
- Lead by example. Begin by praying a prayer that thanks God for something specific. Then pause and let others fill in with their own prayers of thanks.
- Watch the time, after exactly 5 or 10 minutes, indicate that you are moving to the next segment. You might say something like: Now, God, hear our prayers of confession and lament.
- Close on time

PRAYER EXAMPLES:

THANKSGIVING

- Lord, we are so grateful for your grace in our lives and for drawing us together
- We are grateful for this campus itself and all the people within
- We thank you for the life of the mind and the chance to think and create and discover together
- Thank you for the glorious potential of this place of learning, to shape good thinking and research in areas like medicine and education, etc. that impact the lives of people

- We thank you for meaningful work that impacts the lives of students and the development of their minds and we thank you for the life of the mind, itself and the chance to think and create and discover
- Other gratitudes....

CONFESSION & LAMENT

- We lament the competition, pride and scornfulness we sometimes see on campus
- We confess lives that are overly full and too stressful and frenzied and that lack trust in you
- We confess habits of leaving no margin for rest and reflection, or for time with you
- We confess bowing down to the idol of prestige, while forgoing humility
- Other confessions....

DISCERNMENT, PETITION & INTERCESSION

- We pray that the Chancellor and the Board will have wisdom to make good decisions
- We pray that those students struggling with mental health issues or struggling academically will find the help they need and that our Lord will be a source of comfort and resource for them
- We pray that our community of faculty would grow not just in numbers but in the capacity to encourage and bless this campus
- Help us discern what is God's call for us here, at this time
- Other requests, petitions, intercessions