



# 40 Days of Spiritual Preparation for World Conference 2019

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## Invitation to Daily Prayer

You are invited to spend time each day for the 40 days leading to the April 5–13 World Conference in a spirit of prayer. Choose a simple practice that will draw your attention prayerfully each day as we prepare to gather together from around the world.

Ideas are listed below, but you also may choose your own simple prayer form. Each week, you are invited to journal or reflect on the prompts below.

## Ideas for Entering Daily Prayer

- For the 40 days, take a prayerful breath each time you leave your home, mindful of the journeys around the globe that many will be beginning to come together to discern, discuss, and make decisions for the future of the church.
- For the 40 days, set a timer that alerts you to a time you commit to being in prayer each day. Take 1 minute to let your heart be drawn in prayer to your sisters and brothers in all the nations who will carry their hopes, dreams, and questions to World Conference.
- For the 40 days, let a common daily symbol draw your attention into prayer each time you see it—a coffee mug, a candle, a kitchen utensil, a plant, an instrument, a meaningful decorative object in your home. Whenever you pass or use this object, let your heart be drawn into a moment of prayerful awareness for our community as we prepare to gather for World Conference.

- For the 40 days, take 1 minute upon waking or before going to sleep to be in silent prayer, letting your attention be drawn to the spaces the church will occupy, the issues we will discuss, the diverse community that will gather, and the Spirit that already is present.

## Invitation to Weekly Spiritual Preparation

Each week, you are invited to journal or reflect on the prompts below.

### Week One: Sacred Anticipation

Journal/reflect: What does World Conference mean to you? How has World Conference been an experience of blessing and transformation in your own life? Where do you sense the Spirit's movement and invitation as we anticipate this upcoming World Conference in whatever ways you plan to participate (remotely or in person)?

### Week Two: Unity in Diversity

Journal/reflect: World Conference is a living practice of Unity in Diversity and Blessings of Community. We enjoy seeing sisters and brothers from around the globe. But we acknowledge that cultural differences can be challenging when we discuss issues we care about deeply. How is the Spirit seeking to widen your capacity for receiving the wisdom, experience, and stories of people who think differently than you?

### Week Three: Co-creating the Future with God

Journal/reflect: World Conference is an invitation to co-create the future with God as we discern where the Spirit is leading on topics that affect the church and world. An important part of discernment is releasing our own agendas to become more available to God's bigger vision. As you enter this experience, notice what you are carrying that the Spirit may be inviting you to release. Notice also where you feel the life-giving Spirit opening new possibilities and ways of seeing that you are invited to embrace.

### Week Four: Think Globally, Act Locally

Journal/reflect: The World Conference community represents spiritual communities from cities, towns, and villages around the world. Each comes with distinct experiences that impact how they see, hear, and respond. Some issues will seem far removed from your own daily realities, but they may be close at heart for someone else. Notice your own local context as preparation for this global gathering. What dreams inhabit your community's imagination? What concerns rest on people's hearts? What practical matters impact your ability to share in ministry? Where is the Spirit at work in the realities you encounter in your daily life? How do your own local context and experience restrict and expand your role in broader dialogue?

### Week Five: A Living History

Journal/reflect: Consider the wider communion we are preparing to enter—ancestors who pondered in their hearts how to respond wisely to the Spirit for the blessing of the church and the world. Imagine those who may come after you, discerning and deliberating, pulling from wisdom past, and creatively reaching into wisdom yet unseen. Give thanks and ready your heart for the voice of the Spirit that “echoes across the eons of time and yet speaks anew in this moment.” (Doctrine and Covenants Section 162:1b).

### Week Six: Discover

Journal/reflect: We live in an uncertain and exciting time. The Spirit yearns to be incarnate in new places, ways, and forms. In a recent address, President Steve Veazey proclaimed the “future church already is being born.” How are you invited to discover the new life emerging around us? How might it look, in preparation for World Conference, to cultivate a posture of curiosity and discovery as we seek together where the Living God is working among us? 