



Key Aids for Kingdom Leadership

*Practical Aids for Leading
Effective Church Meetings*

*Scriptural passages & prayers
for use in church meetings*



Williamson's Chapel
united methodist church

Changing Lives... and Changing the World through Jesus Christ.



OPENING OR CLOSING CHURCH MEETINGS

Scripture passages that could be used to open or close church meetings

- **John 2:5** His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: Wedding at Cana. Running low on wine. Mary, asks Jesus for help. He is hesitant but Mary is so confident of his ability that she instructs the servants to do whatever he says. We will need that same confidence in Jesus and that same willingness to obey if we are going to be used effectively by God.
- **I Corinthians 3:9** For we are God's servants, working together ...
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: Paul, explaining that both he and Apollos have a role. They are not in competition. God gives the growth. We all have different tasks but all to one goal ... to change lives and to change the world through Jesus Christ.
- **I Corinthians 12:4-7** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: Everyone has something to contribute to the task at hand.
- **I Corinthians 16:13-14** Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: We may have to make tough, even unpopular decisions at time, but they must be made and lived out in a context of faith AND love.
- **Philippians 1:6** I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: God is at work in and through us and God will not let us down.
- **Matthew 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: We do these good things to serve others in Jesus' name and to bring glory to God not to bring glory to ourselves.
- **Titus 2:7-8** Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: We represent Jesus. We represent the Church. The decisions we make and how we make them will make a difference in how people see Jesus and His Church.
- **Philippians 4:13** I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: Our mission at WC is to change lives and change the world through Jesus Christ. We don't attempt to do these things through our own power but rather we count on the power of Jesus.
- **John 10:10** I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: What can we (our committee, council, board, task force, team) do to help people have the abundant life Jesus came to give?
- **I Peter 2:9-10** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
CONTEXT/APPLICATION: We are all chosen--- those who are part of the Body of Christ. But we here --- on this team, this committee, this task force ---- have been chosen for a particular ministry. You are not here by accident. God has placed you on this team. You are chosen. Think for a moment about why?



LEADING CHURCH MEETINGS

Prayers you might find useful as you lead church meetings
(Taken from a **Book of Personal Prayer** compiled by René Bideaux)

- *O Lord, never suffer us to think that we can stand by ourselves, and not need thee.*
John Donne, 1571-1631

- *Gracious God, put myself before you in this moment with waiting heart, expectant desire. Open my eyes that I may see your promise fulfilled; open my ears that I may hear your word whispered to my deepest being. Amen.*
Norman Shawchuck, 20th century

- *Grant, O Lord, that I may look for nothing, claim nothing, and resent nothing; that I may go through all the scenes of life, not seeking my own glory, but looking wholly unto you and acting wholly for you.*
John Wesley, 1703-1791

- *Increase my faith, O Lord. Help me to find you in every experience I face so that each may be used for growth and your glory. Amen.*
Bishop Joseph B. Bethea, 20th century

- *Take Lord, all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. You have given me all that I have, all that I am, and I surrender all to your divine will, that you dispose of me. Give me only your love and your grace. With this I am rich enough and I have no more to ask. Amen.*
Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556

- *God you are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and form me so that I can love and serve others, not for my glory nor by my own strength, but with the power of your presence. Amen.*
Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz, 20th century

- *To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, I give myself up entirely; may I no longer serve myself, but you, all the days of my life.*
John Wesley, 1703-1791

- *The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labour for.*
Thomas More, 1478-1535

- *O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling –block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter’s power. God, make the door of this house that gateway to Thine eternal kingdom.*
On the door of St. Stephen’s in London

- *Living Christ, I give this situation, this room, all of us here, to you. Take over all the way. Fill this room with your power. Cover us with your light. Take us fully into your hands and heart. Transform us.*
Flora Slosson Wuellner, 20th century



CLOSING CHURCH MEETINGS

Scriptural benedictions that can be used to close church meetings

➤ *Psalm 121:7-8*

The Lord keep you from all evil, the Lord keep your life.
The Lord keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

➤ *Psalm 29:11*

May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

➤ *Romans 15:5-6*

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus so that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

➤ *Philippians 4:7*

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

➤ *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us
and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope,
comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

➤ *Numbers 6:24-26*

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

➤ *Romans 12:2*

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God --- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

➤ *Ephesians 6:23-24*

Peace be to the whole community and love with faith
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

➤ *Ephesians 3:19-21*

And now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly
far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever, Amen.

➤ *Mark 5: 19*

But Jesus said to him ... "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much
the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you."