

Dear Church,

Kathy, Linda, Adam, Robert, Steve L, Doug and I have been really encouraged in how to pray for the lead pastor search by some of the prayers / thoughts by author [Ruth Haley Barton, in the book "Pursuing God's Will Together."](#)

Please take a moment to read her thoughts below.

The "Prayer for Indifference" does not speak toward apathy, but rather is an encouragement to simply seek God's heart. When you really think about it - it is a very freeing gift! This is followed by thoughts on praying for wisdom, unity and clarity of God's voice to our own hearts.

Through this season of transition, may we all, as a family of faith, desire to grow in the simple - yet profound gift of prayer.

Humbly serving together,
Myrna (for the team)

The prayer for indifference

The first and most essential dynamic of discernment is the movement toward indifference. In the context of spiritual discernment, indifference is a positive term signifying that "I am indifferent to anything but God's will." This is "interior freedom" or a state of openness to God in which we are free from undue attachment to any particular outcome. We ask God to bring us to a place where we want "God's will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else" so that we can pray the prayer of indifference—"Not my will but thine be done."

The prayer for wisdom

When we have come to a place of indifference, we are ready for the prayer for wisdom: "If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you" (Jas 1:5). We often pray for wisdom while we are already attached to some outcome we think is best! Indifference is an important prerequisite to the prayer for wisdom precisely because the wisdom of God is the foolishness of the world. When we have become indifferent to our need to be seen as wise in the eyes of others, then we are ready to receive wisdom from God.

Here are some other things that I also believe to be helpful:

Prayer for unity

Our desire would be to be united as a team (community) in the bonds of God's love.

Prayer for hearing God

Our desire is that we would continue to develop an attentiveness to God's voice in us through listening prayer.