

Online National Discerning Prayer Gathering

Prayer for District Conferences

April 30, 2025

Discernment Questions:

- *Doubling our impact as a District:*
 - Lord Jesus, what do You want to reveal about how my district can pursue You and double our impact for You?
- *Unique:*
 - Lord Jesus, what is the unique contribution You want to release through me, my local church, or the district I am a part of?
- *Unifying:*
 - Lord Jesus, in what ways do You want me, my local church or my district to bring greater unity to our Alliance family of churches?
- *Creativity:*
 - Lord Jesus, what creativity do You want to unleash through me, my local church or my district?
- *Strengthen:*
 - Lord Jesus, what do You want to strengthen in me, my local church or my district?
- *Other:*
 - Holy God, is there anything else You want to share with us today?

In this gathering, participants joined one of 6 breakout sessions to pray for each of the 6 district conferences taking place this spring. Some of the discernment was particular to each district, though there were several themes that emerged and may have applicability across the Alliance Canada.

Common Themes

1. **Deep and Wide** – Jesus consistently keeps reminding us in these gatherings that both doubling our DEPTH and doubling our REACH (deep and wide) must go together.
 - a. We need to hunger more for the presence of Jesus like Mary in Luke 10:38-42, slowing down to notice what he is saying and showing to us.
 - b. We are being invited into deeper friendship with Jesus, greater abiding in the vine (John 15).

- c. Prayer is a vital foundation for all we do; we must fully depend on Him.
- 2. **Personal Engagement is Needed** - We need to be asking: 'Who is the one I am called to invest in?'
 - a. Jesus is most concerned about our intentionality in 'pursuing the one,' not how big our numbers are.
 - b. We need to embrace personal responsibility to take action and engage those around us, discipling them and training them as leaders.
- 3. **Expect Multiplication** – There was a great sense of hope that Jesus is doing a new thing and inviting us to join him.
 - a. He is already stirring young people; the fields are white for harvest (John 4)
 - b. He is pouring out his Spirit on younger generations (Joel 2 / Acts 2)
 - c. He is calling us to dare to dream.
 - d. He is calling us to embrace inconvenience out of expectation that God will do something amazing when we step out of our comfort zone in obedience to him.
 - e. He has more than enough resources; 'the silver and gold are here' (Haggai 2).
 - f. Need for Flexibility, Creativity and Willingness to learn and try new things
 - g. Rivers of life are being poured out (Ezekiel 47)
 - h. God is doing a new thing; do we perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)
 - i. God is generous and has many giftings to release for us
- 4. **Need for Repentance** – There are idols in our hearts and in our plans that we need to lay down.
 - a. There is a need for us to dwell with God in integrity, righteousness and truth (Psalm 15)
 - b. We are called to humility and to work together with curiosity for how God will use us.
 - c. We must deny ourselves to know him better.
 - d. The fear of man cripples us.
 - e. We must teach our people obedience (not just focus on growing our numbers but growing disciples)
- 5. **Call for Strong Community, Unity and Partnership**
 - a. We are called to carry each other's burdens and share resources.
 - i. The yoke of Jesus is easy (Matthew 11:28) and so as we care for others, especially the wounded, he will make the burden light.
 - ii. We are also called to practice hospitality and mercy to the 'nones and dones' who do not share our faith.
 - b. Picture of the Aspen Tree Grove: the roots are all interconnected so when one tree receives nourishment from the sun or water, the whole grove is strengthened.
 - c. We are called to work together and not in siloes. We can't do it alone.
 - d. Invitation to celebrate the family of God and to focus on shared goals and united prayer.