

# PRAYER TEAM

*Helping people find hope in Jesus by showing how God listens.*

**Thank you** for saying “yes” and joining us on the Prayer Team. The staff and leadership at Anchor Church are excited you’ve jumped on board! We know everyone is busy, so to give of your time to serve God and others fills us with joy. The following information outlines the culture of our Prayer Team, as well as what to expect during your time serving with us. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your ministry team leader or our Administrative Director, Melanie Rivera, at [melanie@anchorchurchonline.org](mailto:melanie@anchorchurchonline.org).

## **Why We Serve:**

We believe that one of our primary Christian identities is Servant. There’s no doubting that Jesus came to serve and has called His followers to do the same. In fact, the call to follow Jesus is more than finding opportunities to serve, it’s taking the posture of a servant in every area of life!

With this in mind, we’d be glad to have you serve with us! Serving is not only a way to respond in gratitude to God with our time and talents, it’s also a way that God uses to shape our hearts into becoming more like His. We believe in displaying radical hospitality to those around us and all volunteers are an integral part of creating a welcoming, family culture. You do not need to be a Partner, our term for a member of Anchor Church, to serve, but we consider all our volunteers to be active participants in growing to become part of the family here at Anchor.

## **What Does It Look Like To Serve On The Prayer Team?**

### **What You’ll Need To Serve:**

Prior to your first scheduled serving date, you’ll receive a first-time serving tote from our Administrative Director, Melanie Rivera. This bag is our gift to you - a thanks from Anchor Church and a welcome to the team! Within this bag, you’ll find your Anchor serving shirt, a welcome card, and a volunteer handout sheet that outlines five simple tips for volunteering on a Sunday morning. We ask that you wear your Anchor shirt each time you are scheduled to serve, as well as a serving lanyard - specific for the prayer team (look for the green lanyards). These lanyards frequently remain in a designated location for your team from week to week, so you can just grab one when you show up to serve.



You'll also be added to **Planning Center Online**, our online scheduling system, where you'll be able to block out any dates that you are unable to serve, so that your ministry team leader can plan ahead to schedule someone else on that day. We schedule all volunteers two months at a time, so every other month you'll receive two emails: 1) a reminder to block any dates that you will not be available to serve, and 2) a notification for dates that you've been scheduled. You'll then be able to respond 'accept' or 'decline' for those dates and correspond with your team leader if there are any conflicts or if you need a substitution.

Lastly, we realize that scheduling conflicts can arise even after you've confirmed a scheduled date. If the cancellation is *more than 24 hours in advance*, we encourage you to use the **Prayer Team Contact Information Sheet** to reach out to your team leader and team members to see if anyone can switch with you. If the cancellation is last-minute, *within 24 hours of your scheduled date*, please reach out to your ministry team leader and our Administrative Director right away, so that we can assist you in finding a replacement.

### **When It's Time To Step Down:**

The average life cycle for anyone who serves on a team is usually one to two years. That being said, there is no formal time commitment, and you have the freedom to take a step back from serving at any time.

We actively encourage all ministry team leaders to foster relationships among the team members. This allows the team to have a sense of camaraderie and open communication regarding the week-to-week happenings within each of our teams. We're also careful to check with our volunteers to make sure that they have the support and supplies they need to serve with joy. You'll notice that your team leader will check in with you after your first time serving and after your first round of scheduling to answer any questions you might have. Additionally, our ministry team leaders check with all volunteers twice a year to gauge their availability and desire to continue serving within the team for the upcoming year.

### **You're On Board, Now What?**

You're on board? YES! Once you receive your serving bag and are added to Planning Center Online, you'll be scheduled to serve. The first few Sundays that you are scheduled you will be trained in the responsibilities of whatever area you are serving in by your ministry team leader. Below are tips and a few things we expect from those serving on the Prayer Team.



## Best Practices:

- Have hands free of beverages or phones.
- Smile, make eye contact, and introduce yourself. Many people who are taking a step forward to receive prayer can be struggling with fear and doubt. By making the first initiation with a smile and eye contact, you are helping to make the individual more comfortable.
- Listen with both ears – one ear to the person’s needs and the other to the Holy Spirit who will lead you in how to pray.
- Confidentiality is essential. Regard what is shared as a “sacred trust,” unless what was spoken causes alarm and the person could be harmed or harm others. If that is the case, please thank the individual for sharing, introduce them to one of Anchor’s leaders or elders, and ask if they would mind sharing and praying with a leader - [anchorchurchonline.org/leadership](http://anchorchurchonline.org/leadership).
- We realize that praying with someone of the opposite gender can sometimes be awkward, so we leave this to your discretion. We do not prohibit this, but we would encourage you to seek out someone of the same gender to follow up with them after you pray with them, particularly if there are any counseling or follow up needs. In any case where you are made to feel uncomfortable for any reason, please let one of Ancor’s leaders or elders know promptly, so that we can work together as a team.
- Use discretion and always ask permission before placing your hand on someone’s shoulder to pray with them.
- Be aware of personal hygiene, and consider carrying mints or chewing gum so that you remove any potential distractions.
- Wear your prayer team lanyard so guests know you’re here to pray with them.
- Remember that one goal is always to help people connect with the God who heals, restores, comforts, and encourages.
- Don’t give advice. Be slow to speak and quick to listen.
- Don’t sound overly “spiritual.” Use conversational, everyday language.
- During COVID, please wear a face mask.

## Leading Someone In Prayer:

1. When someone approaches you, say hello and introduce yourself.
2. Allow space for the individual to introduce themselves, then ask them how you can pray for them.
3. Listen and do not rush the individual. When they are finished speaking, thank them for sharing and invite them to join you in prayer together.
4. When finished praying, ask the individual if there is anything else they would like to receive prayer for.



- a. If not, thank them for stepping forward to join you in prayer and ask them to fill out a **prayer request card** at that time or take one home and fill it out digitally so we can continue to pray for them and follow-up.
- b. If the individual has another prayer request, be mindful of the time. If it is nearing the end of the service, request that you and the individual step out into the hallway to pray once more, so as to not be interrupted when people exit. Once finished praying, ask them to fill out a prayer request card, either in-person or digitally, so we can continue to pray for them and follow-up.

## Leading Someone Through Repentance & Faith in Christ:

As you serve, you may encounter people who are ready to make the life-changing decision to follow Jesus. Below are a few tips on leading someone through a salvation prayer.

### Before Praying

Use Scripture to explain foundational beliefs on salvation. For a full statement of our beliefs, we are in agreement with the Gospel Coalition's confessional statement found at [The Gospel Coalition](#).

- All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. ([Romans 3:23](#))
- The just punishment for our sin is eternal separation from God in hell. ([Romans 6:23](#))
- There's no way we can ever earn our way into heaven. ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#))
- Jesus, the Son of God, lived a sinless human life among us. ([Hebrews 4:14-15](#))
- He died on the cross then rose again, defeating sin forever. ([1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#))
- Because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice, we can be reconciled with God and spend eternity with Him in heaven. ([John 14:6](#), [Galatians 3:26](#), [John 3:16](#))
- Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. ([Romans 10:9-10](#))

### Praying Together

Emphasize that through Jesus, we've received the greatest gift we could ever be given. This gift of new life is free to us without having to earn it or do anything to deserve receiving it, yet **all we have to do is accept it and say thank you**. There's no specific or magical prayer one must pray.



When someone gives you a gift, the most natural response is to say thank you. God has made the offer of forgiveness and love at no cost to you, but at great cost to His Son, Jesus. When it dawns on you, that God loves you and has made a way for you to live with Him forever, the natural response is to turn to Him in prayer and say, Thank You.

Some important components can be remembered with ABC: Admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior, Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again, and Commit to live the rest of your life for Him.

### **Next Steps**

Once someone has made the decision to surrender their life to Jesus, celebrate with them and let them know how excited we are for them! Then, be sure to encourage them to fill out a **prayer request card**, either a card or our online form through the Anchor app, so we can get in touch and provide them with some next steps in their new faith, such as joining a community group and/or discipleship group. We would also ask that you give them a Bible and one of 'The Story' tracts available at the Connections Table as a gift to them. Please walk them over to the Connections Table and give them these items after they have filled out a prayer request card.

Encourage them to come again next week and consider taking them to lunch after the service to make them feel connected and not alone after taking this important step. If you are unable to take them to lunch, please introduce them to an elder or staff member so someone else can do so.

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### **In Case of Emergency:**

Anchor has a Safety Team that actively monitors both the lobby and auditorium before, during, and after the service. If there is an immediate emergency, please look for one of the Safety Team members, an elder, or a staff member. Please familiarize yourself with Anchor's leadership - [anchorchurchonline.org/leadership](http://anchorchurchonline.org/leadership).

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## VOLUNTEER FAQ's:

### **When a guest says: I'm new here.**

Welcome them and bring them to the Connections Table to check out resources after you have prayed with them. Connect them with a Connections Team member and encourage them to fill out a connection card so we can follow up with them.

**The first “next step” is encouraging them to fill out a connection card - then you can encourage them to check out a community group and/or join a serving team.**

### **What if this team isn't the best fit for me?**

No problem, there is no formal commitment to a team. Please let your ministry team leader and our Administrative Director know if you'd like to step down and try out a different serving team. We would love to help you find the team that is the best fit for you.

### **What is the time commitment on a Sunday morning?**

We do our best to keep the time commitment low on a Sunday morning - we know how hard it can be with so much going on in life! Whether you have 2 hours or 20 minutes to give, we have a place for you. Each team will have its own duties and scheduling times, dependent on the needs of that team. Feel free to reach out to our Administrative Director with any questions about specific teams.

The Prayer Team is scheduled to serve during the service at the end of the speaker's message and communion. Typically the speaker will verbally direct people to look for the prayer team in their designated area, which signals team members to head to their areas, if not already there. Oftentimes, we will ask volunteers to be available to serve during outreach services, as well.

### **Who does someone contact if they have questions about serving before signing up for a team?**

You can direct them to fill out a serving card and include their questions. They may also contact Melanie Rivera, our Administrative Director - [melanie@anchorchurchonline.org](mailto:melanie@anchorchurchonline.org).

### **What if something comes up and I need to decline serving within 24 hours of my scheduled date?**

We know that emergencies happen, and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to find a substitute who can switch with you for another date. Please contact your ministry team leader right away, and work together to find a sub for your scheduled date. If you cannot reach your team leader, please contact our Administrative Director, Melanie Rivera.



**Can I serve on multiple teams at one time?**

Yes - We do not suggest serving on multiple teams, but you may if you desire! Let your ministry team leader and Anchor's Administrative Director know if you plan to serve on multiple teams and we can help work out a schedule that best fits your needs. We would still encourage you to serve once a month on each ministry team.

**Don't see your question here?**

Contact Melanie - [melanie@anchorchurchonline.org](mailto:melanie@anchorchurchonline.org).

