**OLGC’s Prayer Ministry Values:**

**1. Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

*“The most fundamental thing here is to recognize that this is a ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is not our power but His. . . We encourage our hosts to be totally natural and simply to be themselves, to take a step of faith and stretch out their hands and ask God to send His Spirit. . . Sometimes when we see the extraordinary work of the Spirit, we may be tempted to look at the fruit rather than the vine. But we are to keep looking to Jesus.”*

* We are cooperating in the work of the Holy Spirit and Jesus.
* Immediate fruits or lack thereof are not our concern.
* Balance of confidence that God hears our prayers and is using us with humility to know it’s not up to us – it’s God’s work.
* Keep it Simple.

**2. Biblical Authority**

*“All prayer ministry must take place under the authority of the Bible.*

*The Spirit of God and the written Word of God are never in conflict.”*

* See intercessory prayer throughout the Old and New Testaments.
* Jesus lived out prayer in His life.
* Prayer was a hallmark of the early Church.
* Bible shows us how to pray:
  + Psalms show any emotion can be taken to God in prayer.
  + There is expectant faith that God hears.

**3. Dignity of the Individual**

*“If we love people, we will show them respect. This means first that confidentiality is assured . . .*

*Next, we must affirm rather than condemn.”*

* Jesus treated everyone with the dignity of a child of God.
* Confidentiality is vital.
* Prayer is for building up, edifying.
* We should never place additional burdens on someone – need to meet them where they are.

**4. Harmonious Relationships**

*“The unity of the people of God was a high priority on Jesus’ agenda and it should be so on ours.”*

* Do not bring in negativity, sarcasm, jokes, etc.
* Very easy to offend without meaning to.

**5. Body of Christ**

*“The Christian community is the place where long-term healing and spiritual growth take place under the protective umbrella of the authority of the Church.”*

* Provide a supportive community within the Church.
* Relationships deepen after prayer is included in small groups – community is being created.

**Before Praying**

* Determine who is the leader, intercessor, etc, Get organized.
* Ask for permission to lay hands on someone.
* Ask “What would you like us to pray for?” or “What would you like God to do?  
  Use their words to form the prayer you lift up to God. Keep it simple.

**Five Point Prayer Model**

1. **Address God**

**“Heavenly Father…” OR “Jesus, Prince of Peace..” OR “Holy Spirit…"**

1. **Access Heaven**

**“We seek to enter your throne room” OR “we seek every heavenly grace” OR “we come before you today.”**

1. **Gratitude**

**“Thank you for being the Giver of Life”  OR  “we praise you for the beauty of this day” OR “thank you for giving us access to you."**

1. **Heart 2 Heart:** *Your heart talks to God’s heart in intercession for your friend’s needs. This is the part of the prayer easiest for others to join in.*

**“We seek your healing grace” OR “we bring our sister in need.”**

1. **Father's Blessing:** *thank the Father and ask for a blessing.*

**“Father bless (insert name) and continue to be with her in the days ahead”**

**“We thank you for what you’re doing in her life.”**

**Prayer Ministry Do’s and Don’ts**

**With the five values in mind, some guidelines for praying with others:**

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| --- | --- |
| **DON’TS: WHAT NOT TO DO** | **DO’S: WHAT TO DO** |
| Lay hands on someone without their permission and/or make the laying on of hands distracting or uncomfortable. | Always ask if you can lay your hand on someone before you do. Keep hands away from anything that could lead to a sexual harassment concern.  Keep your hands still and don’t press down hard. |
| Offer personal opinions/interpretations. | Use their words for your prayer. Offer encouragement.  Pray for God to bless that area of the person’s life. |
| Give advice for life situations. | Encourage the person to take their issue to prayer, pray for God’s blessing in their decision/situation. |
| Get into a battle of the prayers. | Choose who will be leading. Pray quietly. Listen to what your prayer partner is saying. Work together. |
| Pray in such a way as to be distracting – physical actions and tongues. | Keep it simple. If praying in tongues, do so quietly. |
| Assume every word/image that comes to mind is of God. | Ask God to verify. |
| Think it’s all up to you. | Let God do the work and trust He is at work even if you don’t see immediate results. Listen to your heart. |
| Assume God isn’t using you. | Do remember Jesus’ promise to be where two or more are gathered in His name. |
| Get so wrapped up in prayer that you aren’t paying attention to what is going on. | Keep your eyes open and be sensitive to the group. |