

Prayer Team Charter

MAYFLOWER CHURCH

Prayer Team Charter

Streamline System 06 — Team Charters

DRAFT for consideration by the Servants Council at its meeting on July 11, 2026. Not yet ratified. Upon ratification this becomes a standing charter, reviewed at each August Leadership Summit and re-ratified on material change.

Governing Principle

A praying church is the work; this team tends the fire it does not own.

Prayer is the breath of the whole congregation, not the assignment of a few. This team coordinates and cultivates the church's prayer so the body prays together and the body prays alone, never the squad that prays so the church does not have to.

1. Oversight (the home)

Overseeing board: Elders (recommended placement; see review note). Day-to-day point person: Senior Pastor. Corporate prayer is bound up with the ministry of the Word and the Lord's Day gathering, which sit under the elders, so this team works first with the elders. Every team has a home.

2. Purpose

This team exists to cultivate a praying church. Corporate prayer is a real ministry of the church, not a private preference or an optional add-on; it is one of the priorities the church guards. The team coordinates the congregation's shared and intercessory prayer, keeps the church's needs and concerns before the throne, and builds a culture in which the whole body prays. Its concern is not the size of a prayer roster but the faithfulness and reach of the church's praying.

3. Priority-ministry link

This team serves Gospel-Driven Prayer (Priority 3, System 01), and through it the Ministry of the Word and the Lord's Day Gathering, since the church's prayer rises out of the Word and gathers the people before God.

4. The Commission

The elders commission this team to keep Mayflower a praying church and to coordinate the work of corporate and intercessory prayer within it. The work has three settled lines. First, coordinate corporate prayer: organize the church's shared prayer meetings and prayer occasions on a steady rhythm, and arrange prayer before services, meetings, and events so the gathered body is carried in prayer. Second, carry intercession: maintain a prayer-request system so the congregation's needs and concerns are gathered, kept current, and brought before God, and develop focused prayer initiatives for the church's pressing needs. Third, build the culture: provide resources and encouragement that move ordinary members to pray, both alone and together, so prayer is the climate of the church and not the task of a committee. The team prays with its own hands and stirs the body to pray; it never carries the congregation's praying so the congregation does not have to.

5. In scope / Out of scope

In scope:

- Organizing the church's corporate prayer meetings and prayer occasions on a steady rhythm.
- Arranging and coordinating prayer before services, meetings, and events.
- Maintaining a prayer-request system that gathers, keeps current, and circulates the congregation's needs and concerns appropriately.
- Developing focused prayer initiatives for the church's needs, concerns, and direction.
- Providing resources and encouragement that equip the congregation to pray personally and corporately.
- Recruiting and training prayer-team volunteers and intercessors.

Out of scope:

- Setting the pastoral content and order of the Lord's Day gathering. The Senior Pastor and elders hold that; this team serves it and arranges prayer within and around it (see Coordination).
- Pastoral counsel, shepherding decisions, and the care of members in crisis. That belongs to the elders, the deacons, and the church's counseling ministry; this team intercedes and points needs to the right care rather than carrying it.

- Handling confidential or sensitive matters as public prayer requests. The team keeps appropriate discretion and does not circulate what was shared in confidence.
- Becoming the church's substitute for praying. The team coordinates and stirs prayer; the praying stays the whole congregation's, and the team's intercession never replaces the body's.

6. Scale

Shape: a small permanent core of intercessors who coordinate the church's prayer rhythm, expanding with recruited volunteers for special prayer occasions and seasons, drawing commitment categories from the Volunteer Chapter (System 06). The team recruits and trains intercessors and mobilizes the wider body rather than absorbing all the praying itself. Leadership is one appointed Prayer Team Leader (System 07, "21 — Prayer Team Leader").

7. Key responsibilities

- Coordinate the church's corporate prayer meetings and prayer occasions on a steady rhythm.
- Arrange prayer before services, meetings, and events, in step with Worship and First Impressions.
- Maintain a prayer-request system and circulate needs appropriately, keeping confidences.
- Develop focused prayer initiatives for the church's needs, concerns, and direction.
- Recruit, train, and encourage prayer-team volunteers and intercessors.
- Provide resources that cultivate personal and corporate prayer across the congregation.
- Partner with the Senior Pastor in praying for the church's direction and leadership.
- Communicate plans, encouragements, and needs to the elders.

8. Coordination

- Worship Team and First Impressions: this team coordinates pre-service prayer and the Sunday prayer huddle, fitting the praying around the order of service that Worship leads and the welcome that First Impressions runs, so the gathered body and those serving it are prayed for before the doors open.
- Senior Pastor: partners with this team in praying for the church's direction and leadership, and brings the church's pressing concerns into the prayer initiatives.
- All teams and boards: this team carries prayer support for the whole body, receiving the needs and concerns of other teams and bringing them before God. Prayer support flows to every ministry; pastoral decisions and care do not flow back to this team.

9. Resources

Budget line: none specifically named for this team; resource needs are coordinated with the Senior Pastor and met through the elders' provision (Purchasing Policy). [Confirm whether a dedicated prayer-resources line should be established.] Facilities needs for prayer meetings and occasions are coordinated with the Trustees. Prayer scheduling and volunteer requests run through Planning Center.

10. Health indicators

Faithfulness-shaped signs the team is alive, not a measure of attendance numbers. The year's specific targets live in the System 11 annual goals, set with the elders each August.

- The church prays together on a steady rhythm, and the gathered body is consistently carried in prayer before services and events.
- The congregation's needs and concerns are gathered, kept current, and brought before God, with little falling through.
- Members are praying in their own homes and circles, not only at appointed meetings; prayer is the climate of the church.
- A widening group of intercessors is being trained and encouraged, so the load does not fall on a few.
- The church's pressing needs and its direction are being prayed for in step with the Senior Pastor and elders.

11. Review and approval

Standing charter, reviewed annually at the August Leadership Summit. Re-ratified by the Servants Council on material change. Escalation beyond the team's or elders' authority follows the Decision-Making Framework (System 09). Leadership succession follows the Leadership Handoff Guidelines (System 12). Review note: the bylaws are silent on the oversight home for prayer. The Team-to-Board Oversight Map places this team under the elders as a recommendation, on the ground that corporate prayer is bound up with the Word and worship, which the elders oversee. This placement awaits elder ratification; confirm at the next review.

Commissioned by: Elder Chair _____ Date _____

Ratified into the operations documentation by: Servants Council _____ Date _____

Sources

- Mayflower Church Constitution and Bylaws, Art. II §B 4.c.7 (Servants Council receives and approves Ministry Team charters); bylaws silent on prayer's oversight home (see review note).

- Streamline System 01 — The Five Priority Ministries We Guard (Gospel-Driven Prayer, Priority 3).
 - Streamline System 06 — Team-to-Board Oversight Map (prayer placed under elders as a recommendation); Volunteer Chapter.
 - Streamline System 07 — Role Clarity, "21 — Prayer Team Leader."
 - Streamline System 09 — Decision-Making Framework; System 11 — Annual Goals; System 12 — Leadership Handoff Guidelines.
 - Worship Team Charter, First Impressions material (sibling forms for parallelism); Team Charter Standard, this folder.
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