

Prayer Ministry in Maze Presbyterian Church Principles and Practice

Prayer Ministry can be defined as when someone (or usually two people) prays for another, at their request, to minister Jesus (His presence, His word, His healing and His love) to that person. The goal of Prayer Ministry is to bring the wholeness of Christ to the person.

As an official ministry of the church, it is necessary to set out some principles and practice in order that members of the Prayer Ministry Team can be clear about what is required to be a member of the team and in what way the ministry is conducted.

PRINCIPLES

To be a member of the Prayer Ministry Team in Maze, a person:

1. Must be a Christian,
2. Must be a communicant member of the church,
3. Must have been trained on a Prayer Ministry Course approved by Session.
4. In addition, they must commit to the following:
 - a. That they will attend the regular team meetings for review and prayer. Ideally, team members will attend all team meetings, however if this is not possible, there is a requirement to attend at least 4 of the 6 meetings during each calendar year.
 - b. That they will attend a yearly 'away' day or weekend for refresher training.
 - c. That they will be part of the rota used in providing Prayer Ministry in Maze Presbyterian Church.

In addition the following are desirable personal characteristics that a member of the Maze Prayer Ministry team should have:

1. They are both discerning and discrete.
2. They are excellent listeners.
3. They are caring and compassionate for the needs of others.
4. They can maintain a calm, unshaken expression and attitude, no matter what is shared.

As everyone is created in the image of God and precious to Him, those who ask for prayer are to have their dignity and integrity respected. Everything mentioned in Prayer Ministry is confidential and should not be disclosed to anyone without the permission of the person concerned. This confidentiality does not apply if the person discloses things of a criminal nature.

It is always God who ministers through us in the name of Jesus, directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have nothing and no one to offer people except Jesus. This ministry is always His ministry, not ours.

The healing and blessing that may come from Prayer Ministry are the direct result of what Christ did on the Cross (*He carried our sorrows, our sicknesses and our sins*) – the Fall brought sin, sickness and death, but the work of Christ through the Cross is the remedy for all these.

What we say and do in ministry will always be consistent with Scripture.

The ministry we exercise as a Prayer Ministry Team will always be under the authority of Session. Team members must be open to direction and correction.

Membership of the team does not give authority to minister in the name of Maze PC outside the team or church .

We will never give anyone the impression that lack of healing is due to a lack of faith.

PRACTICE

Without love we are nothing. Jesus ministered out of compassion – we need therefore to be loving, accepting, sensitive and un-shockable in all our ministry.

How we operate must flow from the example of Jesus and the principles outlined above.

Ideally ministry should take place in a room or area within the church.

Team members on the rota for any occasion must meet beforehand, in order to spend time to listen to God and pray, in preparation for ministering

On each occasion when Prayer Ministry is being offered, one team member should be appointed to direct anyone seeking Prayer Ministry to team members who can minister to them. When Prayer Ministry ends, this team member should pray with those who have been ministering.

Ideally the team will minister in mixed gender groups of two members.

We will minister by following the model taught on the Kairos Prayer Ministry training course.

Permission to lay hands on those receiving ministry should always be sought before the ministry starts.

Prayer Ministry team members who wish to share things they believe God may be saying to them, with those receiving Prayer Ministry, must do so with the utmost care and sensitivity, in line with our principles above.

We will not seek to counsel during Prayer Ministry. If it is thought that a person may benefit from counselling or pastoral assistance, this can be suggested to the person, and can be set up via the church staff.