

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRAYER CIRCLE

*Use this as a tool to practice and prepare with your Chapter Officers*

**Note: Assign a prompter who is not in the Prayer Circle.**

**The Worthy Patron, Warder, Sentinel and Organist** do not participate in the Prayer Circle.

- The Worthy Patron calls up the Chapter.
- The Chaplain is the first to move and to enter the Labyrinth (The Chaplain enters in the same location as the Associate Patron, but will enter ahead of the Associate Patron.)
- The Worthy Matron begins her movements and that cues all other officers to begin to move toward the circle.
- Star Points move from behind their chairs. Esther has the longest journey as she backs and then moves to the opposite arm of her chair before entering the circle.
- Officers attempt to move as a unit and form the larger circle and then enter together maintaining a circle.
- The WM approaches the edge of the labyrinth to cue all Officers to enter together. All other Officers in the Prayer Circle should enter the Labyrinth (an imaginary line around the outside legs of the Star Point chairs) at the same time.
- The Associate Patron enters the Prayer Circle between Esther and Martha (between Esther and Associate Conductress if AC is not assisting with new members).
- The Chaplain has reached the west side of Altar. Chaplain kneels if desired. Assumes attitude of prayer to begin prayer.
- The Officers join hands and the sideline members assume the Reverent Attitude.
- The Conductress(es) bring candidates into the Prayer Circle.
- The Conductresses join hand next to the Officer with that hand of the Officer. Conductresses do not join hands with the new members.
- Chaplain assumes attitude of prayer and leads Chapter in prayer.
- When Chaplain reaches words “golden chain thus lengthened” Conductresses take hand of new member and together all in the circle raise joined hands to shoulder height to demonstrate the chain. (Encourage all new members to join hands and participate in the chain.)
- When Chaplain reaches the words “and when one by the one the chains fall away in death” the Worthy Matron first drops her right hand and brings it to her waist height in front of her. Officers one by one drop their hands one by one and assume the reverent attitude. New members participate and drop their hands. Associate Conductress and Worthy Matron are the last link to release. Worthy Matron ends the prayer by clasping her hands in the reverent attitude as the Chaplain says “AMEN”.

- Prayer is immediately followed by the singing of one verse of “Bless Be the Tie That Binds”. A tone of welcoming to the new members set by eye contact and smiles among the Officers is important. The tempo of “Bless Be the Tie That Binds” should also reflect that same energy and welcome.
- After singing one verse of "Bless Be the Tie That Binds", all members drop the Reverent Attitude.
- Worthy Matron begins the exit from the Prayer Circle by stepping back toward the edge of the labyrinth. Officers in the circle move with the WM, maintaining their circle. WM crosses the edge of the labyrinth first, followed by other Officers maintaining their circle.
- Conductresses begin their countermarch single file with the new members once the WM has stepped to the edge of the labyrinth. They pause after the countermarch and wait for Officers to exit labyrinth and be headed back to their stations. Then proceed to the east centered on the WP.
- The Chaplain remains momentarily at the Altar while officers are exiting the Labyrinth. Chaplain retraces steps to station.
- When all (including Chaplain) have returned to their stations and candidates are in place in the East, the Worthy Patron seats the Chapter.