

GRASPING FOR MUCH-NEEDED GRACE

20 Days of Nonpartisan Prayer in a Polarized Political Season

Vermont Conference (UCC) Prayer Initiative

Day 3 (Saturday, Oct. 17th)

Scripture Focus: “Where there is no Vision, the People Perish...” Proverbs 29:18a KJV

Every election is ultimately about the vision of the people. We in the churches of the Vermont Conference certainly know the power of vision. Our vision statement calls us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we know that people and churches are most fruitful in this world when we seek to do both these things. We know that Jesus fully embodied that vision, and that our churches can thrive when their leadership is focused on both preaching and living out the good news about Jesus in ways that connect with and make a difference in the community. We trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to help us be open to new ways of following our vision, and we all know that if we lose track of that vision, our people will lose our way.

And for us as a nation, we too need to live out our vision. Without it, we as a nation will perish. To discern our vision, we look to the founding documents of our country. Most famously, the prologue to the Declaration of Independence states that all people are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. The Constitution of our country also lays out much of our vision as a nation, as it lists our Bill of Rights and our structure of government. Obviously, we as a nation have often not lived up to our vision, but it always is there as a guide to who we want to be.

So on every election day, we as voters should pray for wisdom about which candidates will most help our nation follow our vision. And that is what we seek to do today, to ask God for help in deciding which candidates will best enable us to do that. And while we are at it, we also pray for our Conference, that we would follow our vision for God and be fruitful, to the glory of God.

Prayer: Loving God, we are grateful for our country, and we pray for its vision this election season. We pray that we will not perish because we have lost sight of Your vision for us. We also pray for the people and churches of the Vermont Conference, that we might joyfully follow the vision You have given us. Amen.

Rev. Paul Sangree serves as the Associate Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference.