

## A Prayer for General Conference

Holy God of Grace, we confess that *grace* is a word that falls so easily from our lips but sometimes is difficult to put into practice.

Strengthen us during this time of General Conference  
as we truly want to show grace to one another.

We pray specifically for those who will attend the General Conference.

Many are going there wounded, broken, and hurt. We pray  
for your guidance for those who will be about the business of the church  
and who may arrive with bruised egos and battered spirits.

Some come to the gathering with dread, and others with the anticipation  
of success for a cause they believe heartily in.

But no matter the attitude, we know in our very souls  
that we are a broken connection.

Many of us feel as fragile as a bird's wing, tattered and easily broken.

And Lord, so many have been broken and wounded during these days  
of infighting and exchanging hateful words. Forgive us.

Forgive us our desperate clinging to the belief that we know what is completely right.

Forgive us our willfulness and arrogance.

We stand, knowing we should be on our knees.

We preen, when we should be humble.

We gloat, when we should be begging for a clearer understanding of one another.

Forgive us our pridefulness and unwillingness to even consider the viewpoint of others.

We pray for mercy and for wisdom.

Grant us your guidance and your peace so that we may be about your business  
of spreading healing, love, peace, and mercy to *all* your people. Amen.

— Rev. Karen Kidd Lovett