



Pray4TN County Courthouse Sacred Assembly Preparations & Format Suggestions

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SUGGESTED PREPARATIONS FOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE SACRED ASSEMBLIES:

- **Review Your County date:** Start by checking the schedule of all County Courthouse Sacred Assemblies on the Events page at www.Pray4TN.us to make sure you have the publicly announced date and time for your county gathering. If a change needs to be made, please contact our office at the number above immediately so we can coordinate with other facilitators in your county to make this event a blessing for everyone. We do encourage many other gatherings of prayer all throughout the month of July in churches, homes, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, etc., wherever and whenever those spiritually inclined want to pray.
- **Download Resources:** You can start spreading the word about your courthouse gathering date and time by downloading any or all resources online at www.Pray4TN.us and print or email whatever helps you spread the word for your county Sacred Assembly.
 - **Fliers:** Feel free to use the website's suggested printer for printing downloadable fliers, and they can drop ship to you, or print with your own local printer.
 - **For Leaders:** One of the downloads on the website is a PDF letter to leaders written by Rep. Monty Fritts and Sen. Mark Pody. Feel free to email or print out and share with pastors and ministry leaders in your county
 - **Social Media:** Share posts everywhere and often on social media. Send all the people you can to the website to sign-up and connect with their county gathering and spread the word. You can share posts from <https://www.facebook.com/Pray4TN> and download and use the fliers on the website with your own county's event time, date and location (found on the Events page). There are designs both in jpeg and pdf that are downloadable, as some social media won't allow pdf's.
- Call or email your local Legislators, mayors, police chief, pastors and other community leaders. Give them the website address and ask them to come and pray at the county courthouse gathering. Encourage the pastors to read the resolution (downloadable online) in their Sunday Service on June 29th. And ask them if they want fliers for their Sunday bulletins or to make available at their church information counter. Find your Legislators here: <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/legislators>
- Most of the county sacred assemblies will take place right in front of the courthouse, unless noted in the schedule. (Be sure to let our office know if the location has changed for your county, so we can update the schedule online.)
- We pray for good weather, but folks should be encouraged to prepare for rain, just in case. Also, you can suggest folks bring water bottles, an umbrella to shield from the sun, and encourage folks to post their pictures and videos of the event at the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Pray4TN> and their content will be posted once it's approved.

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE SACRED ASSEMBLIES:

Here is a potential program outline you could use for your county's Sacred Assembly. Please feel free to edit the program below in any way you like. This is a suggested outline to help give you ideas.

Leaders arrive at Courthouse 45 minutes before your county courthouse Sacred Assembly to pray over the site and all leaders and participants (location listed under Events on website, www.Pray4TN.us). Each county will do things differently... as some may want a portable sound system if more people are expected, or small tents for shade.

- Have someone prepared to start singing "How Great Thou Art." If they sing just the first line folks will join in. This could be acapella... no instruments. Of course, if someone wants to play guitar, that would be even better. You could also do "Amazing Grace." Most folks know these songs, so they're more likely to sing. Another newer song folks likely know is "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord Oh My Soul)"
- Prayer - Have a local pastor open the meeting with a word of prayer
- Have someone read the following, which explains why we are doing this:

Henry Blackaby, a well known pastor and author, has insightfully said:

"If you notice the world around you becoming darker and darker, don't blame the darkness! It is simply doing what darkness does. The only remedy for darkness is light. If the world is becoming darker, the problem is not with the darkness. The problem is with the light... When God's light is allowed to shine unhindered through your life, the darkness around you will be dispelled."

"In 2024, a Tennessee prayer initiative began with the passing of House Joint Resolution (HJR) 803, a call to fasting, prayer and repentance in the month of July. This effort, spearheaded by Rep. Monty Fritts and then passed to the Senate by Sen. Mark Pody, and signed by Gov. Bill Lee, saw prayer in all 95 Tennessee county courthouses last year. Some counties had hundreds that participated... some only a handful, but it was a small beginning that was a precursor for what was to come.

Similarly, 2025 saw the passing of HJR 0051, a Historic ANNUAL "Call to Prayer, Fasting & Repentance" across our state for those "spiritually inclined and physically able" (words directly from the resolution). Our state has some mighty big challenges: Deadly drugs pouring into even our smallest communities, families torn apart, rising crime in many areas... the list goes on and on.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ and believe HE is our only hope, and Tennessee's only hope, let's call on the name of the Lord in this hour. God's promise to us in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is that if HIS people will repent and turn to Him, He will hear us and heal our land. Repentance brings true, heaven-sent revival. So we, the Body of Christ, NEED TO HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE ALMIGHTY GOD, examine our hearts and repent for our apathy and other sins, in our families, our cities, in our State of Tennessee...and in our whole nation."

- Next, have various people read the resolution in succession. Encourage everyone to speak loudly enough to be heard if there is no amplification.
- Then have 3 or 4 people prepared to pray out loud and all to agree with those who pray. They should be encouraged to keep their prayers to about 3 minutes or less each. (Note: remind them in advance, but also immediately before the meeting... folks can forget. While we don't want to hinder the Holy Spirit from moving, we want to be equally sensitive to people's time... some have taken time from off from work to gather.)

- Ideally, those who are asked to pray should be from a variety of denominational streams, rather than folks from one particular stream of the faith. The more variety the better, in every way: Various ages (it would be great to even have a child pray), men and women, and different ethnicities, if possible.
- If your gathering is informal, you may also want to open it to anyone who wants to pray that is just attending. That is up to you. There is no right or wrong way to facilitate these gatherings... we just want you to feel freedom to do what the Holy Spirit leads you to do in this as well as any other prayer gatherings folks have during July across your county.
- Have another pastor close the meeting in prayer.