Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Like Paul writing to the Philippian church so long ago, we also “thank our God every time we mention you in our prayers” (Philippians 1:3). And know this, church family, we pray for you on a daily basis. We pray for you individually, and we pray also for our entire congregation—that we will maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace as we engage in God’s mission for us.

At the outset of our congregational study of women’s roles in the church in February, we made a commitment that we would provide regular updates for you as our process developed. Honoring that commitment, we have provided monthly updates in our Glenwood newsletters to keep you apprised of our task force’s progress.

As the summer months continue, the task force continues its work in designing a process that will enable Glenwood to study the topic of women in worship. In order to help facilitate that process, they have invited many other Glenwood members to play key roles. The prayer team, which was introduced to you in last month’s update, is meeting regularly and is actively in prayer for members of the task force, the elders, the staff, other congregational members who will play key roles in our study, and the entire congregation as we learn how to study disputable matters in ways that honor God.

Over the past month, the task force has also commissioned “the Bible study team.” This team, which will be led by Lance Bolay, will help find resources, speakers, and other materials to help us in our study. A core value of this church is “a truth that challenges,” which means in this study and all others, we will keep Scripture at the center. This team will help us find resources that will guide us in our study of God’s Word. Other team members include Diana Walla, Grant Davis, John Hodges, and John Hood.

We expect the task force to develop a more concrete timeline for our study in the very near future, and when that becomes available, we will make it known to you. Until then, pray for God to guide our study, protect our unity, and shape us more and more into His image.