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# COMMITTEE STUDY

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DECEMBER

## Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for calling us to serve you,  
and to lead a congregation for those so in need of your love and grace.  
You've called us to be a place where people can live in love,  
and where people can experience your presence.  
So be with us as we make decisions tonight.  
Help us to seek your wisdom  
over mere human wisdom,  
your logic over common logic,  
and your guidance over the guidance of  
convention and convenience.  
Help us to be your servants  
serving collaboratively and cooperatively,  
seeking unity of heart and mind,  
so that we can lead our church with your  
guidance, grace, and love. Amen



## N. Graham Standish, *Discovering the Narrow Path*

How do we form the kind of faith that leads not only to our healing, but also to our becoming a healing presence for others? First we need realize that the entire purpose of God's healing is not necessarily for our healing alone. This is what distinguishes Christian spirituality from much of today's pop spirituality. Much of what our culture embraces as spirituality is self-centered and selfish. It offers techniques and objects intended to procure healing only for ourselves. The whole point of pop spirituality is to make us the best we can be—to be self-actualized. Being the best we can be isn't such a bad thing, and Christian spirituality does emphasize individual growth and transformation, but then it takes us further. In Christianity, *the transformation of the individual is always intended to transform the communal*. In other words, the purpose of our transformation is to help transform others. IN a church context, our own healing is ultimately meant to be a healing for the body of Christ—for the church community as a whole.

## Discussion Questions:

- What gets in the way of our becoming a healing presence for others in our lives?
- How can we lead the church to become a healing and transforming community?