SAMPLE PRAYER WALK SCRIPT

*Campus: University of Illinois at Chicago*

*Meeting place: Student Life Center (where we host LG)*

**Vision**

This prayer walk is to help us grow in discernment around the particular issues that are unique to our campus and city, think through how that affects us or our peers, and how as a community we can respond. In the same way that understanding the context is critical to understanding a passage of Scripture, knowing the context of our campus is allows us to minister effectively here at UIC. So today we’re going to invite Jesus to help us see this campus with his eyes.

We already know that UIC is a campus that plays a significant role in the life of Chicago. It is the largest university in the Chicago area with over 30,000 students! But what else does God want us to see?

**Stop 1: Jane Addams Monument, Hull-House** *– walk time: 5 min*

Here is the description of this monument: “located not only in the same city, but the same neighborhood where pioneering social reformer Jane Addams lived and worked. Hull-House, the internationally famous settlement house that she co-founded here in Chicago, is now a Historic Landmark and museum…. Under Jane Addams, it was a leading center in the development of the profession of social work, fostering study and inquiry into the causes of urban poverty.”

Social work is defined as “work carried out by trained personnel with the aim of alleviating the conditions of those in need of help or welfare.”

Pray: Individual listening prayer

Let’s take some time to individually ask the Lord, in what ways we can as individuals and a community address the conditions of those in need on our campus?

Share: What were some of the ideas God was bringing to mind?

**Stop 2: The Quad** *– walk time: 5 min*

UIC began as an extension of the University of Illinois, with its first branch being the Chicago College of Pharmacy in 1859. What evolved into UIC was first housed at what is now Navy Pier and only moved to our current location in 1965. Many students who come through UIC have been the first in their families to go to college.

Pray: Out loud in pairs

Let’s take 5 in pairs to pray for our campus - inviting God to bless the students who are the first to go to college in their families, understanding the challenge and sacrifice their stories represent.

**Stop 3: Memorial Grove** *– walk time: 5 min*

As we stand in this beautiful space, with the grass and the trees, we want to finish our time by honoring the first people of the land. This land, this space, has seen many changes over time. It was not always a university campus. As we remember those who have come before us, we’re reminded that our call is to live in right relationship with God our Creator, our fellow people and all of creation.

Pray: Responsive prayer out loud together

We’ll take a moment of silence and then I’ll read the italicized print and you’ll read the bold print.

*Creator, thank you for the Peoria, Potawatomi, Sioux tribes and others [insert tribe name(s)] whose people have lived on this land for hundreds of years.*

*We recognize that it is a good gift that we can come and meet on their lands.*

*Forgive us, who are immigrants to this country, for so often forgetting, that we are guests of the First Nations people of North America*

*Please help us to live on these lands with respect.*

*We pray for the Peoria, Potawatomi and Sioux [insert tribe name(s)] people today:*

*May they have unity in their tribe.***Creator, hear our prayers.**

*May their remaining sacred lands be honored and protected.***Creator, hear our prayers.**

*May you bless their efforts to revitalize their language and their culture.***Creator, hear our prayers.**

*May we and all the people who live in and visit these lands remember that we are guests.***Creator, hear our prayers.**

*May all the Peoria, Potawatomi and Sioux [insert tribe name(s)] people know that they are loved by a good and powerful Creator.*

**Creator, hear our prayers.**

*Creator of every tribe, nation and tongue, may you richly bless the Peoria, Potawatomi and Sioux [insert tribe name(s)] people.* **Amen***.*

**Debrief Over Dinner**

* What was a highlight for you during the prayer walk?
* What did you want to learn more about?
* Did you sense anything from the Lord regarding next steps for you or our community?