

**From:** Dana Getsinger <[getsam231@gmail.com](mailto:getsam231@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 11:09 AM  
**To:** Michelle Crocker <[mcrocker@leelanau.gov](mailto:mcrocker@leelanau.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please send on to all commissioners, THANK YOU!

Dear Commissioners,

I appreciate that Chairman Bunek is demonstrating his respect for diversity in Leelanau County by suggesting that each BOC meeting begin with a prayer representing one or another of the many belief systems embraced by folks in Leelanau County. How educational it will be for each of us to learn the teachings of our varied and rich culture. Obviously, we'll occasionally hear a prayer from a Catholic priest or Protestant minister. And there are Jewish families that celebrate Shabbat every Friday. It's a wonderful embrace of family life. That would be interesting to those not already familiar with Judaism. But Freedom of religion also means freedom from religion and I am anxious to hear the teachings of the Humanist group. I have heard from a local minister that there is a pagan who follows the pantheon of the Norse Gods. That should be really fascinating. I hear we also have Muslims and Buddhists in the County. There might be Agnostics, Baha'i, Confucianism, Druze, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Rastafarianism, Shinto, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Traditional African Religions, and Indigenous American Religions as well. I will be delighted to learn more about their beliefs. Also, in the past I have asked the BOC to add a Land Acknowledgement (a formal statement recognizing Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land) and this seems like the perfect opportunity to include it. And I'm sure there must be a few Wiccans out there.

Thank you Mr. Bunek for giving us the opportunity to better understand our cultural and religious diversity here in Leelanau County.

Sincerely,  
Dana Getsinger