

**From:** Sarah Shoemaker <[skshoes@icloud.com](mailto:skshoes@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** Michelle Crocker <[mcrocker@leelanau.gov](mailto:mcrocker@leelanau.gov)>  
**Subject:** County Commission

Hi, Michelle. Would you please include my message (below) to the County Commissioners in their packet for Tuesday's meeting.  
Thanks,  
Sarah Shoemaker

To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

I see that the Leelanau Board of Commissioners is considering adding a time of prayer, led by local pastors apparently. Will this be in addition to the moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting or in place of it? Will it include only the local pastors who have suggested it, or will it be inclusive of all Leelanau County residents, i.e. not only whatever Christians have requested it, but also representatives of the Jewish faith, the Muslims, the Hindus, the Buddhists, and of course the local Anishnaabes? And who will decide who these representatives will be? One would assume that the moment of silence avoided dealing with those contentious issues, since, as it has been, the silence has allowed each Commissioner and each meeting attendee can pray in their own way---or not pray.

As a committed Christian myself, I know how easy it is to forget our neighbors who have other faiths, but I know how my friends of other faiths feel when the assumption is that everyone in the community is of the same faith and prays in the same way. I also know that a public meeting should include ALL residents, not just the majority. If you Commissioners intend to do your duty to the best of your ability, you will need to think long and hard about how you will approach this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sarah Shoemaker  
Northport