

## **Invocation Guidelines:**

- An invocation may be offered at the second general legislative agenda on a rotating, first-come, first-served basis, and be provided for no more than two minutes on a voluntary basis by persons affiliated with local faith-based organizations and ministries.
- The Council serves constituents of all faiths, expresses no faith preference, and recognizes no faith as superior or inferior to others.
- The person delivering an invocation shall herein be referred to as a cleric. Clerics wishing to provide the invocation may call staff at the Snohomish County Council Office (425-388-3494). The clerk of the council will coordinate the scheduling of invocations. A cleric's faith shall not preclude his/her ability to give an invocation.
- A group or individual having no religious affiliation may request the opportunity to offer a brief statement to reflect on the gravity of the moment, seek peace for the nation, wisdom for its lawmakers, and justice for its people, or generally appeal to universal values of our country.
- Invocations or statements shall be given by one person and may not exceed two minutes.
- All invocations or other statements shall be positive and uplifting and are not an opportunity to disparage other people, organizations, or beliefs. No invocation shall be used to lobby or request funding or support.
- The Chair of the Council will introduce a person by name and title prior to an invocation.
- Some Council meetings will not have a person scheduled to give an invocation. In such cases, the Chair, at his/her discretion, may ask for a moment of silence.
- No member of the Council, public or government at the Council meeting shall be required or expected to participate in an invocation.
- No remuneration or other compensation shall be given for providing an invocation.