

# NEW CONSTITUTION, 2011

## LITURGICAL RESOURCES

### SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

As many of you as were baptized into Christ  
have clothed yourselves with Christ.

*Galatians 3:27*

**There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.**

*Ephesians 4:4-6*

### STATEMENT ON THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

We are called by God  
to be the Church of Jesus Christ,  
a sign in the world today  
of the new life that God intends for all.  
In our life together  
we are to display the new reality  
that sin is forgiven,  
reconciliation accomplished,  
and the dividing walls of hostility torn down.

*Based on Book of Order  
G-3.0200 - .0401*

As the living body of Christ,  
the church is called  
to proclaim the good news of salvation,  
to present the claims of the gospel on people's lives,  
and to demonstrate Christ's love in service to the world.  
We are called to undertake this mission  
even at the risk of life,  
trusting God in all things.  
In faith we embrace  
a new openness to what God is doing in our time,  
a renewed obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and a new joy in our common worship and work.

Today we reclaim our historic calling  
and remember the great ends of the church:

**The proclamation of the gospel  
for the salvation of humankind;  
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship  
of the children of God;  
the maintenance of divine worship;  
the preservation of the truth;  
the promotion of social righteousness;  
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

*Book of Order  
G-1.0200*

From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Occasional Services* (Geneva Press, 1999) 92.

### PRAYERS

*This prayer might be included among the Prayers of the People or used at a session meeting.  
It would be especially appropriate for an elder to lead the prayer.*

Gracious God,

pour out your Spirit of power and truth  
upon the whole church  
that we may be for you a holy people,  
baptized to serve you in the world.  
Sustain this congregation in ministry.  
Ground us in the gospel,  
secure our hope in Jesus Christ,  
strengthen our service to the outcast,  
and increase our love for one another.  
Show us the transforming power  
of your grace in our life together,  
that we may be servants of the gospel,  
offering a compelling witness in the world  
to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**

From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Occasional Services* (Geneva Press, 1999) 30.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Merciful God,  
through your Spirit of grace and power  
you have called us together as the body of Christ.  
Yet we have fallen short of demonstrating our visible oneness in Christ.  
We have damaged your church, created factions,  
and caused harm by stereotyping and demeaning one another.

Forgive us, Lord.  
In this time of change within the church,  
draw us closer to you and to one another.  
Help us to look beyond our differences  
to see our common calling in and through you  
to proclaim the gospel in word and deed  
to a world in desperate need.  
We pray in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **A BIDDING PRAYER**

Eternal and almighty God,  
we give thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
You raised him from the grave  
to reign in glory with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

We pray for the Church of Jesus Christ around the world,  
and especially for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).  
May all that we do and all that we say  
give glory to the risen Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for congregations engaged in faithful service and ministry.  
Give them joy and gladness  
as they love the world you so love.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians who serve in a multitude of ways,  
that they may live out their callings with inspiration and purpose.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those called and set apart for special service to your church,  
that they may discern the leading of your Spirit  
and guide your people with wisdom and humility.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in this season.  
May those who have opposed this change, and those who welcome it,  
set aside disagreements to remember that you have called us together  
for salvation and service.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our church as we face the future together,  
that even in days of uncertainty, we might boldly proclaim  
that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Now to the One who by the power at work within us  
is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,  
**to God be glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,  
forever and ever. Amen.**