

PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONS

The following meeting devotions were written by the Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Richard, executive secretary of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Included in the following pages are two sample devotions, which can be used as models for constructing your own devotions.

Devotions for Missions Board (A)

Opening Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Thoughts for Reflection

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Moment of Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer

Almighty God, bestow Thy heavenly grace upon all of our congregation, who share in the work of spreading the good news, relieving suffering and poverty, and giving hope to the hopeless. In Christ's name, Amen.

Responsive Litany (John Bunyan, adapted)

L: Who would true valor see, let them come hither.

P: One here will constant be, come wind, come weather.

L: There's no discouragement shall make them once relent.

P: Their first avowed intent, to be pilgrims

L: Who so beset them round, with dismal stories

P: Do but themselves confound, their strength the more is

L: No lion can them fright, they'll with a giant fight.

P: But they will have a right, to be a pilgrim

L: Hobgoblin nor foul fiend can daunt their spirit

P: They know, they at the end, shall life inherit

L: Their fancies fly away, they'll fear not what folks say.

P: They'll labor night and day, to be a pilgrim.

Closing Prayer

To what extent, in whatever way, and with what spirit of love, Lord God, we would be your people amidst the cries of human need. Equip us to lead and to recruit our congregation, as partners in Christ's ministry to those who need our help. Amen.

Devotions for Missions Board (B)

Opening Reading: Ephesians 4:17-24

Thoughts for Reflection

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Moment of Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer

We would clothe ourselves with a new self, living according to your will, in true righteousness and single-mindedness of purpose--to love as you have loved us. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Responsive Litany

L: So then, here are the rules for a new life. Let us speak the truth with love.

P: Because we are members of one another.

L: When we are angry, let us not let the sun go down on our anger.

P: Because we are members of one another.

L: Let us work and labor honestly with our hands and minds, so we will have something to show the needy.

P: Because we are members of one another.

L: Let us not talk evil, but say only that which builds up and strengthens others to share the work of reconciliation.

P: Because we are members of one another.

L: Let us put away all bitterness and wrath, anger and wrangling, slander and all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving.

P: Because we are members of one another.

L: Let us be imitators of Christ, and live in love, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Closing Prayer

May we never be blamed of hardness of heart, or ignorant of what is good and righteous. May you, dear God, help us always put away our old life and live a new life, befitting your disciples. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.