

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 Music Board (A)

Opening Reading: Psalm 33

This is a psalm of praise. It invites people to make music in gratitude to God.

Thoughts for Reflection

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Moment of Silent Prayer

Opening Prayer (in unison)

May this year be one of integration, O God. May we seek new ways of sharing the uplifting message of your faithfulness, in music, for the benefit of our congregation and to your glory. Amen.

Responsive Reading

L: New occasions call for new songs

P: The birth of a child, a baptism, a 16th birthday, the safe return of a traveling loved one.

L: A wedding, a fiftieth anniversary, a special recognition

P: For our congregation, it might be a new year, a new ministry or program we have planned, a renewal of faith, or new members of our Church.

L: A new song helps us remember who we are and whose we are.

P: A new song anticipates change and expands our imaginations.

L: Singing new songs draws us into others faithful witness and hope.

P: Thank God for the renewal we find in new songs!

Closing Prayer

God of new songs, give us all voices to sing, and hearts to rejoice, as we remember your steadfast love. Empower our congregation in the many creative ways to rejoice and be glad in sacred music. Amen.

Benediction

Let us use voices not only to sing to God, but to promote the music of joy among our people.

Devotions for Music Board (B)

Opening Reading: Psalm 1

Thoughts for Reflection

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Moment of Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer

Root us, righteous God, in your teaching, that we might stand firm against all real and imagined fears and temptations. Refresh us with the music of spheres, that we may be inspired to do the work of faithful people. Amen.

Responsive Litany

L: Stories shape our identity, equip us for services in the present, and pull us toward God's future.

P: The stories of the bible - God's covenants with Israel, Jesus' life death, and resurrection, and the spread of the gospel - are not imply interesting past events.

L: They have the potential to transform, to enlighten, and to challenge.

P: These same stories have inspired composers and musicians for centuries with their message of promises kept and hope

L: They have given millions of people reason to live different lives and continue to do the same for our congregation.

Closing Prayer

Faithful God, you have been with us all the way. From the time of our spiritual ancestors you have cared for us like a loving mother or father for their child. You have named and claimed us as your very own. Help us to continue to promote the telling of the stories of your faithfulness in the music of our congregation. Amen.