

## **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 Religious Education (A)**

**Opening Reading:** 1 John 1:1-2:2

**Thoughts for Reflection**

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**A Moment of Silent Prayer**

**Unison Prayer** (K. Mansfield, adapted)

Lord God, as we come together in this meeting, make us like crystal, that your light may shine through us. In Christ's name. Amen.

**Responsive Litany** (Gail Ricuitti, adapted)

L: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

P: Be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create.

L: Behold I create a Jerusalem rejoicing, and its people a joy.

P: Go and spread the news. He is not in the grave. He has risen, us all to save.

L: Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with wrong is won.

P: He has risen to set us free, Alleluia to him and praises be.

L: The power of good now binds his kingdom and its fullness claims our minds.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord God, source of all true wisdom and goodness, how often we substitute our own wisdom and goodness for the way of life shown us by Christ. When we do this, our message to our children and youth is often taught as if it is ours, when it is the message of simplicity and love that we learn from Christ. Empower us with true wisdom, that we might pass it on to our young people. In Christ's name, Amen.

## **Devotions for Religious Education (B)**

**Opening Reading:** II Corinthians 4:13-18

**Thoughts for Reflection**

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**A Moment of Silent Prayer**

**Unison Prayer**

This is a time of celebration, Lord God. We look back on all we have accomplished with our children, and we give you thanks. We look at all we wanted to do with them, and ask for your continued guidance. We look ahead to this summer as a time of renewal and planning, and hope. Be with us, in Christ. Amen.

**Responsive Litany**

L: To you, Lord God, we call. Do not refuse to hear us.

P: Blessed be the Lord, for God has heard the sound of our pleadings.

L: The Lord is our strength and our shield; in God our heart exults.

P: And with our songs we give thanks to the Almighty.

L: The Lord is the strength of our people.

P: God is the saving refuge of all people.

**Closing Prayer**

As vacations and the responsibilities and opportunities of summer approach, help us not to take a vacation from You, O God. Families and children need special prayers in the summer, and so we pray for them. We pray for our church and its commitment to teach the way of Christ to every age in every season. Help us to use this beautiful season to celebrate and take time to be with our loved ones and with You. Through Christ we pray. Amen.