

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.

Devotion for Trustees (A)

Opening Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Thoughts for Reflection

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Moment of Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer

As stewards of our church's finances, Lord God, it is uncommon for us to think of financing the Church's mission. We are more likely to think of budgets, line items, expenses, and the monetary health of our congregation. Teach us to be more true to our calling, to be stewards of our resources in order to be sharers of the good news. Amen.

Responsive Litany (Adapted from Cape Town, South Africa)

L: For rebirth and resilience

P: Blessed be God

L: For the spiritually humble

P: Glory to God in the highest

L: For all who hunger and thirst for justice

P: Praise God forever

L: For all who risk reputation and livelihood for the sake of others

P: All praise and glory to God who, loving mercy, bestows blessings upon us, that we might share them with others, in Christ's name.

Closing Prayer

Your Son taught us charity, O God that we might share what we have with others. So let us share words of compassion, our sanctuaries for the raising of the human spirit to new heights, and our worldly possessions for the relief of suffering. Give us your heavenly benediction. Amen.

Devotion for Trustees (B)

Opening Reading: Psalm 126

Thoughts for Reflection

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Moment of Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer (Diann Neu -- adapted)

Blessed be the works of thy hands, O Lord.

Blessed be the work of our hands that touch life.

Blessed be the work of our hands which have nurtured creativity.

Blessed be the work of our hands which have held pain.

Blessed be the work of our hands that reach out and are received, and

Blessed be the work of our hands, our hearts, and our minds as we meet this evening.

Amen.

Responsive Litany (Jan Richardson -- Adapted)

L: May God bless our hands, our hearts and our vision

P: To work together for the bringing of the kingdom

L: That in our differences we may find peace

P: In our laboring, we may find justice

L: In our suffering, we may find hope

P: In our embracing, we may find love

L: And in our risking, we may find transformation.

Closing Prayer

We thank you, O God that we are able to meet around this table and plan and decide and influence for good the direction our Church takes. Give us your heavenly benediction, in Christ's name. Amen.