Prayers for Church Meetings

Opening Prayer: "Let us pray. Guide us in our deliberations, O God, and touch our lives with your loving kindness. Grant that our decisions may be in the same spirit that was in Christ Jesus and be served through us in our world today. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 26:1-8."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] Gracious God, we come before you with the cares and concerns of life, and trust that you will meet us with grace and goodness. We thank you for renewing and redeeming what we have made of the lives you have given us. We thank you for the hard lessons we have learned from the difficult times of our lives. We thank you that you have placed within us not only a capacity to cope with the worst that life offers, but also to hope for the best that your Son has to offer. Give us the strength, the wisdom, and the courage to follow your will and your way. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Prayer for adjournment: “We are indeed thankful, Lord, that you have brought us together as workers in your field. Strengthen us in our labors so that your harvest may be bountiful. Keep us mindful of your presence so that when we go our separate ways, we may see the larger vision of your Kingdom at work in us today. Amen.”

*The prayers for adjournment were written by Mike Thompson, Karl Travis and Kim and Diana Warner. All other prayers were adapted by Charles Somervill from The Minister's Annual Manual, 2011-2012, with permission from Logos Productions.*
Prayers for Church Meetings

Opening prayer: "Loving God, this is a time for us to give up our own selfish needs and to offer ourselves in selfless deeds. Help us to do the work that you want us to do in our time. Help us to be more gracious in giving ourselves to others, just as your Son graciously embodied your gift of love to this world. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 1."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] To know you, to love you, to serve you: to all these you call us, O God. And at times, these calls challenge us. God of love and justice, wisdom and compassion: open our minds and hearts, our ears and our hands, that we might experience and trust you in the needs we encounter, in the opportunities we find, and in the ones with whom we journey. Teach us and point us toward the paths of truth, that we might serve your church in wisdom and humility. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Prayer for adjournment: “Even as we seek you in our own journeys, Lord, we discover that you already have been searching for us in those same places. We rejoice that you travel with us and are constantly making us aware of how we might better serve you in our Church, our homes, and at work. We thank you that your presence continues in our waking, our sleeping and in our homecoming with you. Amen.”
Opening prayer: "God of abundant grace and boundless love, we come before you today with all that we are and all that we have, so that we may help to further your will in reaching out to a broken and needy world. Strengthen us to bring encouragement to all whose lives we touch, providing for their needs and drawing them nearer to you. In Jesus Christ. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 121."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] God of grace and God of glory, you reach into our lives and into the very heart of this world to bring peace and wholeness into places of conflict and brokenness. Thank you for releasing your healing grace into the world. This day, reach into the hearts and minds of those who are gathered, and those who are absent, to comfort and strengthen all who draw near you. We bring before you today those in our congregation and wider community who struggle in body and spirit, and pray for your renewing Spirit to be in their midst. Amen.

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: Holy God, we have lifted our eyes that together we might see your Way. Where we have seen faithfully, God, lead us quickly. Where our vision has been clouded, hold us back. In our trust that we are in your keep – coming and going – we anticipate our next gathering, where we might seek again your will and Way. Until then, hold us near, and keep us safe, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.
Opening prayer: "Lord God, confront us, transform us, encourage and sustain us that we might, with joy and thanksgiving, be more faithful in our witness to you. May our hearts and minds be touched by your Spirit as we serve your people here and within the community. May the love and compassion of Jesus Christ infuse our lives with your grace. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 80:7-19."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] We give you thanks, O God, for each other and for your presence with us. We celebrate the experiences of community that build us and others up. May we not fail to listen for your Spirit's stirring our lives for the good through the voice of others, even when the words are those we have resisted. And may we not fail to speak, when it is through us that you would speak truth, and seek justice, and build up one another. We give thanks for each other's prayers that accompany our days. We give thanks for shared laughter and tears, the signs of the rich fabric of true community. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: Radiant God, your face has shined upon our gathering. In our common words and our plain faces, your wisdom has peaked and prodded. If our decisions have lighted our community’s path, may our choices shine forth. As we now depart, shine in us and through us, that we will be faithful until we meet again. We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Prayers for Church Meetings

Opening Prayer: "Bless now, loving God, the labor of our minds and hands and hearts; our lives, busy with families and work, fun, and friends; and our church, a community of faith. Bless all these things for we offer them to be your vehicles of compassion, justice, grace and joy. In Christ's name, Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 70."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] "God, you are the source of all the good gifts of our lives, we praise and thank you for your daily blessings. Bless all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Comfort those in prison, those who mourn, the lonely, the distressed, the stressed out. Be the companion of the hopeless and those near death. Renew caregivers so they may continue their ministries of mercy. Let the mind of Christ be present among us so we learn to love each other as you love us. Keep in your holy care all who have died in Christ and reunite us with them in your holy presence. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

- Concluding prayer for adjournment: God our Deliverer, we have sought you and rejoiced in your presence. In our need for you we have discovered your faithfulness. May the promise of this moment fill our hearts and minds, that as we leave one from another, our lives will express the best impulses of this gathering. We ask it for our sake, and for the world’s, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.
Opening prayer: "We pray, God, for the decisions we face and the abilities you have given us. Give to us wisdom, patience with one another, and the strength of your love and conviction. Grant us your Spirit, help us in our deliberations and stir us to faithful action. Bind us together, that each one's choice may be for greater good. In Jesus Christ. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 96:1-9."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] From its very beginning, O God, your church has been built upon a foundation of love; a love that surrounds us, supports us, and sustains us. Your love sent your Son Jesus among us to live out new ways of relating to one another and to you. Your Son loved us even to his own death, drawing us back to you from the long estrangement of sin. His resurrection sings of your great and gracious love, calling us in turn to love one another. For that love, supreme and sublime, yet particular and present, which draws us together as your church, we thank you, O God. May we seek in this life to grow ever closer to you and your purposes. We pray in the name of him who is Love incarnate, Jesus the Christ. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: Lord of heaven and earth, marvelous is your work in our midst. You enter our gatherings and make more of them than we can. You take our common ideas and ponderings and to them add your strength and beauty. Thank you for your presence with us. Thank you for drawing our best from within us. Thank you for uniting us in purpose, vision, and honor. Go with us now, that the purpose we have experienced here will emerge through us in concrete acts of love and justice, in the name of the Christ. Amen.
Prayers for Church Meetings

Opening prayer: “God, you call us into community, but community is not always easy. We try to love each other. We seek to do your will. When fear or disagreement leaves us on shaky ground, give us courage to speak our minds with love. Open our ears and minds, that we might be transformed. Give us vision to see the thread that binds you to us, us to you, and all of us to one another through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

"The reading is from Psalm 30."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] Eternal God, we marvel at the patience you show to us. Time and again, you call to us as a shepherd beckons the flock, asking that we come to you. You gather the lost and the lonely, the humble and the proud, those who walk with certainty and those who stumble and fall. Alert us to your call this day. Help us listen intently to your voice through the noise without and within. Show us how we may fulfill your hopes for our lives. Build among us a fitting and hospitable home for your Spirit to dwell. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: Almighty God through your son Jesus Christ you have turned our mourning into dancing; you have loosened our sackcloth and girded us with gladness. Help us by your Spirit to praise you and not be silent. O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.
Opening prayer: "Giving God, you accept who we are and have hope in what we are becoming. In that spirit, we dedicate our lives to the church's work of teaching, preaching, healing, and accepting those whom others see as weak or unwanted. As you call and send us in new ways, give us the vision and commitment to make your way known in the community that you have entrusted us. In Jesus name, Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 103:8-13."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] You are the one we call upon, O God, for you are the one who hears. As you have brought deliverance to Israel, bring deliverance and renewal to our lives and community. Deliver us from ways of relating to one another that seek only one’s own advantage, and the not the greater good. Heal wounds we carry deep within, or sometimes on our sleeves. Invigorate us for responsible care of this creation fashioned by your hands. Support those who would be peacemakers among us, the ones who care for vulnerable ones of any age or station. Help us in making our own contributions as authentic, committed followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: Gracious God, our hearts are full of thanksgiving that in your grace and mercy you have not dealt with us according to our sins nor judged us according to our iniquities. Help us to rejoice and live as free people knowing that as far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us through your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.
Opening prayer: "God of love, for all you have given, we give you thanks. May our lives and service for you be engaged in your mission and witness: extending mercy, doing justice, deepening community, all for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 130."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] Gracious God, open our hearts that we may recognize your call and go where you may lead us. Bring us into an awareness of the sufferings of others so that we might support them through the same caring and encouragement you have shown us. May we be reconcilers and healers sensitive to the needs of others. Thank you for allowing us to participate in your kingdom as members of your body. Inspire us to faithfulness in the tasks that are ours, remembering that Christ is served as we serve others. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: Lord, our souls wait for the coming of your son Jesus Christ who is our hope and salvation. As we live in the meantime bless the work of our church and its members. May you son find us faithful and with expectant hearts for the fulfillment of your kingdom. We pray in Christ name. Amen
Prayers for Church Meetings

10

Opening prayer: "Lord, you have spoken, called us by name, and summoned us forth to be your disciples. Speak to us in such a way that we will know that the one who meets us on a Sunday in worship is the same one who has called us to witness, to serve, to suffer, and to risk discipleship Monday through Saturday in the world. We offer our lives, our service for you today. In Christ name. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 85:8-13"

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] God, help us to understand what is going on in our lives. Help us to perceive your plan in our lives and to give thanks for those good things that often seem as chance and coincidence. May we be able to see where you have been at work--and a bit more sure of what you want to do for us and through us. We are grateful for what you have done in the past, and we anticipate what wonders you will yet perform. Strengthen our faith in our joys and sorrows, in our despair and gladness. Send your healing Spirit to those who mourn and uplift us all in your comfort and grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: God of Salvation, your grace and presence is always available to those who love you and keep your commandments. We look forward to the day with steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. By your Spirit keep us faithful to work you have given us to do so that our land will yield its increase. We pray in the name of the one who was faithful even unto death, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen
Prayers for Church Meetings

Opening prayer: "Creating God, you have brought us from life to death. Sustaining God, you are our faithful companion on life's journey. Give us hearts that are open to sorrow and loss and are as generous to others as you have been with us. Guide us in these moments of mission and deliberation. For Christ sake we pray. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 43"

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. O God of power and might, you call us as those entrusted with your treasures of grace and fellowship. We are especially mindful of those who may be in need, not only of our prayers but also of our help: those who do not have enough to eat or drink, those who suffer in mind or body, those who sacrifice their own interests to care for their children and model for them responsibility and love, and those who have been let down or abused by a word not honored or a promise not kept. Open to us the ways, and the ones, that stand in need of our action--even the ones we might not be inclined to consider as deserving. Teach us humility and help us to look to the interest of others first so we may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: Lord of all time, we thank you for this time we have had together. We trust your continuing guidance for the discussions and decisions reflected in this gathering. As we part from one another we are grateful that you never are apart from us. Keep us mindful of your presence as we go about the life you have entrusted to us. Amen.
Opening prayer: "Gracious God, you renew hope when we feel most hopeless for ourselves, the conditions in our own lives, and in the world. You have shown us in Jesus that there is more to come than we presently see. We believe in this new life for ourselves, for the church and all creation. Renew us now as we gather together in Christ name. Amen."

"The reading is from Psalm 23."

Prayers of concerns and celebrations: "Are there particular concerns or celebrations in our congregation, community or Presbytery that you would like to mention?"

Leader: "Let us take a moment of silence as we reflect on our moments of concern and thanksgiving. [silence] Lord God, you are the great and good shepherd. You seek the lost and the strayed, and you gather together those who call your name. You bind up the injured and feed your flock with justice. What are we to say to this? Our refrain is praise and thanksgiving. Our response is to welcome the stranger, visit the sick and imprisoned, clothe the naked, feed the hungry and thirsty. Our resolution is to trust your judgment and claim our righteousness through our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that we are able to hear your voice amidst the noise of the world. Give us the will to follow your voice. Amen."

"Let us pray the Lord's Prayer."

[The chair or moderator will now conduct the meeting.]

Concluding prayer for adjournment: “Dear Lord, we pray for your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Now we entrust to you the meeting just concluded with the hope that indeed your will is being done on behalf of your kingdom on earth. Give to each of us gathered renewed eyes to see you in actions in our lives both when we are together and when we are apart from one another. Amen.”