

Opening Prayer for Ecclesiastical Assemblies

Original 1934 version

Heavenly Father, eternal and merciful God: It has pleased Thee according to Thy infinite wisdom and loving kindness to gather a Church unto Thyself out of the peoples of all the earth, and to govern Thy Church through the service of men. Thou has graciously called us to this office of government, and hast enjoined us to watch over ourselves and to bestow due care upon the flock which Christ purchased with His precious blood.

We are now assembled in this place in Thy holy Name, in order to deal, after the fashion of the apostolic churches, with such matters as shall come before us and concern the edification and welfare of Thy churches, agreeably to our office. We confess that we are unworthy and unable of ourselves to accomplish any good thing. We beseech Thee, therefore, faithful God and Father, that, in accordance with Thy promise, Thou wilt abide in the midst of the present assembly through Thy Holy Spirit, and that He may lead us into all the truth.

Remove all misunderstandings and guard us against the influence of our sinful hearts. Grant that Thy Word may be our only rule and standard, in order that our deliberations may redound to the glory of Thy Name, the edification of Thy churches, and the peace of our own consciences.

This we ask in the Name of Christ Jesus, Thy Son, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit, the only and true God, is deserving of eternal praise and glory.

Amen.

With Updated Language

Heavenly Father, eternal and merciful God: It has pleased You according to Your infinite wisdom and loving kindness to gather a Church unto Yourself out of the peoples of all the earth, and to govern Your Church through the service of people. You have graciously called us to this office of government, and have instructed us to watch over ourselves and to give due care upon the flock which Christ purchased with His precious blood.

We are now assembled in this place in Your holy Name, in order to deal, after the fashion of the apostolic churches, with such matters as shall come before us and concern the edification and welfare of Your churches, agreeably to our office. We confess that we are unworthy and unable of ourselves to accomplish any good thing. We ask of You, therefore, faithful God and Father, that, in accordance with Your promise, that You will abide in the midst of the present assembly through Your Holy Spirit, and that He may lead us into all the truth.

Remove all misunderstandings and guard us against the influence of our sinful hearts. Grant that Your Word may be our only rule and standard, in order that our deliberations may contribute to the glory of Your Name, the edification of Your churches, and the peace of our own consciences.

This we ask in the Name of Christ Jesus, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit, the only and true God, is deserving of eternal praise and glory.

Amen.