

2009 General Assembly Commissioning Service

July 29-August 2, 2009
Indianapolis, Indiana
<http://www.disciples.org/ga>

Suggested use: As a sending forth or a blessing of stoles that you are sending to the assembly. For more information on stoles visit www.disciples.org and search for "stoles".

Leader: We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

People: As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Leader: Today we commission the members of our congregation and church staff who will attend the General Assembly. We send these members forth to listen to the spirit, to grow in their faith, and to bring back good news of the common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

People: We send them forth to bring back new and updated resources, to renew friendships, while building new relationships, and to experience the hope of a church that is a witness for wholeness in our fragmented world. We send them forth that they will return to share the feast of our wider church mission and ministry with each of us.

Leader: I ask you now, the members of ___(insert the name of your church) do you covenant this day to pray for (name those who will attend the assembly from your church) as they go forth to serve on your behalf. Do you covenant to pray for hearts that are open to loving as God has loved us? Do you covenant to pray for wisdom that is greater than our own? Do you covenant to pray that these people before us might sense God's presence in new ways as the Spirit moves among this gathering? Do you covenant to lift prayers for traveling mercies and a safe return to our community of faith? If so will you respond, "with God's help we do."

People: With God's help we do.

Leader 1: Do you, (first names of those attending) covenant with the congregation to participate fully in the assembly? Do you covenant to be present in away that celebrates the diversity of the Christian

Church (Disciples of Christ)? Do you covenant with us to be our witness for wholeness as you experience the church in new and refreshing ways? Do you covenant with us to return with your spirit invigorated, your faith deepened, and our table widened that we might be connected in covenantal love with our brothers and sisters around the table? If so, will you say “with God’s help we do.”

PEOPLE: **As we send you forth to witness and serve, to learn and to share, we eagerly await your return that our collective ministry and witness might be enhanced as we seek the healing of all nations, as we seek wholeness amidst fragmentation, and as we together witness and serve from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.**

ALL: **We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.**

Prayer of sending forth:

God of abundant love, who has offered to the world more than we could possibly ever need to be sustained, we rejoice this day that you have called us to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As we send forth (insert the names) bless them with your Holy Spirit. Might they, O God, learn and grow in order that we might learn and grow as we seek to heal the nations and reconcile ourselves to you. Might they share in the hope that comes through healing of community, of renewing of relationships and the strengthening of our common witness. We pray this day O God, especially for our General Minister and President, Dr. Sharon Watkins and our Moderator Dr. Newell Williams and all who assist them in leadership and in service. We pray for their strength, we pray for your wisdom imparted to them as they lead us in our worshipful work. Bless now O God our community and open our hearts and minds, strengthen our witness of wholeness and healing. In the powerful name of Jesus we pray. Amen.