

Antiphonal Prayer

Leader: Gracious and loving God, as we engage together in mutual mission, help us to rid ourselves of arrogance, stereotypes and hidden agendas.

Participants: Open our ears, our hearts and our minds, so that we may learn from others – especially from those who come from cultures, societies or backgrounds different from our own.

L: Enable us to shed our craving for power and control, our corrosive delusion that we are better or closer to God than those who have fewer privileges or possessions than we do.

P: Grant us the wisdom to reject “top-down” or “hand-out” models of interaction that treat people as objects. Help us to embrace instead true partnership, which affirms the equal dignity of all of God’s children and allows us to serve one another across social and cultural boundaries.

L: May the Holy Spirit will move amongst us, giving us gifts of new eyes, true empathy, and a capacity to see our world and ourselves from the perspectives of others.

P: Challenge us, Lord, to apply these gifts and insights wherever we might be called to ministry – in our local neighborhoods, in our congregations, in our presbyteries, in our denomination, and around the world.

All: We pray that such openness would lead us to better discern the ministry and mission to which God is calling us, that we may stand in Christ-like solidarity with all of God’s people, falling in love with them and with God once more. Amen.