

Prayer to open church meetings



Heavenly Father, eternal and merciful God, in Your infinite wisdom and faithfulness You decided to gather for Yourself from all the peoples of the earth a church through the proclaiming of the holy Gospel[24] and rule over it through Your servants.

You have also in Your grace called us to this office and commanded us to keep watch over ourselves and the flock[25] who Christ bought with His precious blood.

We now gather here in Your holy Name to act, following the example of the apostolic church and in accordance with our office, in matters before us that have bearing on the prosperity and establishment of Your churches. We must, however, confess that in ourselves we do not have the ability and skill, because by nature we are unable to think and do the good we must.

Thus we pray, o faithful God and Father, that You, according to Your promise and through Your Holy Spirit, be present to guide us in all truth. Rid us of any misunderstanding and false motives of the flesh and give that Your holy Word be the only measuring-rod for every decision and discussion so they may be to the glory of Your Name, building up of Your church and the relief of our conscience. We pray this through Christ Jesus, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit, the eternal and true God, must be worshipped and praised ever more.

Amen.