

Global Exchange Commissioning Service
*Sisters Together: Joined and Knit Together in Love**

One: But speaking the truth in love,

All: we must grow up in every way into him who is the head,

One: into Christ,

All: from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped,

One: as each part is working properly,

All: promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4: 15–16, NRSV

Hymn

“Help Us Accept Each Other” (PH #358)

Presbyterian Women undertake this year's Global Exchange, traveling to Eastern Europe to listen to the pain and joy experienced by our sisters and to share faith stories and ministries. In 2009, we will welcome our sisters from Eastern Europe to the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women.

_____ is your representative on this journey.

The goals for this journey are to:

- hear the cries of our sisters and respond with compassion,
- work for the end of all forms of violence,
- advocate for the rights of women and children,
- support our global partners and
- allow ourselves to be transformed by partnership experiences.

Commissioning

One: Do you promise to uphold these goals in all you do as a participant in Presbyterian Women's Global Exchange?

Participants: I do.

One: Will you be a faithful leader, listening with your heart, seeing with God's eyes, hearing with knowledge and discernment, showing the love and justice of Christ in all you do?

Participants: I will.

One: Will you be diligent in your commitment to interpret this Global Exchange for two years, traveling and sharing with the women in your synod?

Participants: I will.

One: Will the congregation please stand? Will you, as sisters and women of

faith, reach out in partnership with the women of this Global Exchange and our European sisters, with support, consistent prayer, active learning and openness to the workings of the Holy Spirit as together we embrace new ministries?

All: We will.

One: Let us pray.

God of grace and glory,
the sky does it simply, naturally,
day by day by day;
the sun does it joyfully,
like someone in love,
like a runner on the starting line;
the sky, the sun, they just can't help themselves.
No loud voices, no grand speeches,
but everyone sees and is happy with them.
Make us like that, Lord,
so that our faith is not in our words but in our lives;
not in what we say, but in who we are,
passing on your love like an infectious laugh;
not worried, not threatening, just shining
like the sun, like a starry night, like a lamp on a stand
light for life, your light for our lives.

All: Amen.

Blessing

One: With love deep in our heart,

All: God, go with us.

One: With wisdom to discern the signs of the times,

All: God, go with us.

One: With the Spirit stirring in our souls,

All: God, go with us.

One: With the power of the Spirit to renew our world,

All: God, go with us. Amen.

*The commissioning prayer and blessing are adapted from *Celebrate Life! The Worship Book for the 24th General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches*, (Geneva: World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 2004), pp. 60, 15. Used with permission.

PH: *The Presbyterian Hymnal*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1990.