

A Reconciliation Prayer

Reconciler God,
we need your forgiveness for our failures in imagination:
we lack the planner's vision to see where
 a bridge of peace could be built.

We need your forgiveness for our failures in perception:
we lack the architect's sense of how
 a bridge of peace might be proportioned.

We need your forgiveness for our failures in stamina:
we lack the builder's patience for constructing
 a bridge of peace bit by bit.

In confessing our failures, O God,
 we find ourselves released;
 we find ourselves equipped;
 we find ourselves ready to be peacemakers:
 planners, architects and builders of bridges. Amen.

- adapted by Brian Perkins-McIntosh from a prayer by *Kate Compston of England*,
quoted from *Seeing Christ in Others*, edited by Geoffrey Duncan, (UCPH, Toronto, 1998), pg. 152

Prayer of Confession

God of love and mother-earth,
 who in Christ's body suffered the violence of the world,
 and in whose memory is contained our profoundest grief,
we lay open to you:
 the violence done in our name in time before memory;
 the unremembered wounds we have inflicted;
 the injuries we cannot forget
 and for which we have not been forgiven.

**The remembrance of them is grievous to us;
The burden of them is intolerable.**

We lay open to you:
 those who have pursued a violent knowledge
 the world cannot forget;
 those caught up in violence they have refused to name;
 those who have enacted violence
 of which they have not repented.

**The remembrance of them is grievous to us;
The burden of them is intolerable.**

We lay open to you:
 the victims of violence whose only memorial is our anger;
 those whose suffering was sustained on our behalf;
 those whose continued oppression
 provides the ground we stand on.

**The remembrance of them is grievous to us;
The burden of them is intolerable.**

We wholeheartedly repent of the evil we have done,
and of the evil done on our behalf;
and we look for grace to offer forgiveness,
and to know ourselves forgiven.
In the name of the reconciling One, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

- taken from worship which opened the October 1998 meeting of the General Council Executive.

A Liberation Litany

Leader: Lord, liberate us from the chains of fear.
People: Lord, free us from the closed circles of discrimination.
Leader: Lord, liberate us from the prisons of prejudice.
People: Lord, free us from the confines of nationalism.
Leader: Lord, liberate us from hate and envy, greed and pride.
People: Lord, free us from hostility and anger, violence and injustice.
All: Lord, lead us into the way of peace and justice.

- adapted by Brian Perkins-McIntosh from a prayer by *John Johansen-Berg of England*,
quoted from Seeing Christ in Others, edited by Geoffrey Duncan, (UCPH, Toronto, 1998), pg. 162

An Anti-Racism Statement of Belief

We believe all people are equal before God.
We believe racism is a sin and violates God's desire for humanity.
We believe racism is present in our society and in our church,
and throughout time has manifested itself in many forms.
We believe that the struggle against racism is a continuous effort.
We believe in the creation of a church where all are welcome,
and where diversity is as natural as breathing.
We believe change is possible.
We believe in forgiveness, reconciliation and transformation
and the potential to learn from stories and experiences.
We believe we are all called to work against racism
and for a society in which the words of the Gospel are realized among us.

- adapted by Brian Perkins-McIntosh from the
United Church Anti-Racism Policy Statement of Beliefs, 2000