

## **Spiritual Practices and Perspectives of Negotiation** **Scripture, Confessions and Polity<sup>i</sup>**

Below is a list of some passages from Scripture and PCUSA's Constitution you may want to consider and study as you encounter divisive conflict in the church. It may be helpful to study and reflect on these passages or portions of these passages individually or as group through the process of *Lectio Divina*. Additionally, you may want to consider if certain passages would be helpful to be read as part of the negotiation process. For example, you may choose to begin and end each negotiation session with certain passages.

### **Scripture**

1. Exodus 18:13-27
2. Proverbs 15:1-4
3. Matthew 5:21-26
4. Matthew 7:1-5
5. Matthew 18<sup>ii</sup>
6. Luke 6:27-49
7. Luke 15:11-32<sup>iii</sup>
8. John 17:20-26
9. Acts 6:1-7
10. Acts 15:1-31
11. 1 Corinthians 6:1-7
12. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
13. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
14. 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2
15. Ephesians 4:1-16, 4:25-5:2
16. Colossians 3:1-17
17. James 1:19-22
18. James 4:1-12
19. 1 John 4:7-21

### **Confessions**

1. The Nicene Creed
2. The Heidelberg Catechism 4.105-4.107
3. The Larger Catechism 7.244-7.246
4. The Confession of 1967
5. A Brief Statement of Faith (see below)

### **Book of Order Provisions**

1. The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity
2. G-1.01 The Congregation
3. G-2.01 Ordered Ministries
4. G-3.01 General Principles of Councils
5. G-3.02 The Session
6. G-3.03 The Presbytery
7. G-4.01 Incorporation and Trustees
8. G-4.02 Church Property

- 9. G-5.02 Relations with Other Denominations
- 10. G-5.04 Union Presbyteries
- 11. G-5.05 Joint Congregational Witness

### **A Brief Statement of Faith 10.4-10.5**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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<sup>i</sup> This is not an extensive list of resources. You are encouraged to engage in further research, study and development of resources that may be helpful in your context.

<sup>ii</sup> For a more detailed discussion of how Matthew 18 relates to Conflict Transformation see Thomas Porter, *The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of JustPeace*, (Upper Room Books, 2010), 29-37.

<sup>iii</sup> See also Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* (Doubleday, 1992)