

**Commissioning Service for
Attendees of the 2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
By Glenda Watts (Heartland Presbytery)**

It has always been customary to pray for loved ones who are away from us. In recent years Christians have asked God for “traveling mercies”—prayers for those who are about to undertake a journey. It was first used for missionaries or church workers who were going on long journeys to remote parts of the world for the purpose of ministry work. It is appropriate now to ask God’s blessings and protection on all people who are traveling—for traveling mercies.

Now, I invite all who are traveling to Minneapolis, Minnesota, in June for the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women to come forward.

This group of Presbyterian Women has committed themselves to attend the 2015 Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 18–21, 2015.

They will travel together and separately in cars, vans, or by air. They will meet new people and renew friendships and encounter God in unexpected ways.

It will be an opportunity for renewal as an important body within the Church—one body with many members. It will be a time to celebrate the one Spirit who lives and works through all of us; to recognize the gifts of the Spirit that have graced each of us; and to lift up the shared mission and ministry that is accomplished when we work and worship together as a single body.

We gather to send them as God’s people. We go with them through support and prayer. We anticipate receiving them when they return to share new ideas to enhance all Presbyterian Women.

Let us pray together:

God who watches over us wherever we are, we seek your blessing upon those among us who will travel this June to Minneapolis, entrusting them into your hands for protection and good health. We pray they will be enriched in their minds and souls and learn new ways to live out our PW Purpose through mission opportunities, advocacy work and Bible study. We pray that they will experience your own goodness in the hospitality they receive, and experience your presence in all they meet remembering that wherever we wander in your spacious world, we never journey beyond your loving care, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.