



## Guide for the Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the PCA May 21, 2023

**May 21, 2023**, has been set aside as a **Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving** for the PCA to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the **Convocation of Sessions** held in Atlanta on May 18, 1973, marking one of the significant initial steps that led to the formation of the PCA in December of the same year.

Our hope is that, on this day, churches across our denomination will incorporate prayer into their worship that offers:

### **PRAISE for Christ's Enduring Church:**

- *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.* Ephesians 2: 19-20
- *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!* Amen. Ephesians 3: 20-21
- *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2: 9-10*

### **THANKSGIVING for the foundations, rooted in God's faithfulness, that this Convocation of Sessions laid 50 years ago for our continuing church:**

- For the prayerful commitment of churches across the PCUS to courageously work toward a *Continuing Presbyterian Church* that would be
  - Faithful to the Scriptures as the Word of God,
  - Commitment to a Reformed understanding of Scripture as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms
  - a renewed obedience to the Lord's Great Commission to make known to all peoples the Good News of God's saving grace.
- For the faithful elders who gathered on May 18, 1973, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA, for a **Convocation of Sessions**, in order to consider forming a new denomination.

- For the adoption of the **Reaffirmations of 1973**, which clearly articulated the doctrinal positions, as well as points of tension and departure, that laid the groundwork for the need for separation between the PCUS and a new, biblically faithful, continuing Presbyterian denomination.
- For the wisdom of our founding fathers, who set up a structure of church government that continues to multiply the influence of our biblical and Confessional commitments and enable us to be faithful to the Great Commission.

### **PRAYER for the PCA:**

- Pray for the 50th General Assembly, meeting in Memphis, TN June 12-17.
  - For an Assembly marked by unity, joy, faithfulness, and hope – that we would exemplify the theme which our GA Host Committee has selected for 2023: "Great is Thy Faithfulness: Strength for Today - Bright Hope for Tomorrow."
  - For the Administrative Committee, the Memphis Host Committee, the 88 PCA presbyteries, commissioners, and volunteers as they prepare for the 50th General Assembly.
  - For Godly wisdom and discernment for the leadership and commissioners as they address the issues before this year's Assembly, to God's eternal glory.
  - For the families and visitors attending GA for perhaps the first time, that they would see the Holy Spirit at work, and return home with a renewed fervor to pray for their churches, presbyteries, and the denomination, rejoicing anew over God's work in the PCA for His Kingdom.

Let us know you are joining in prayer, find resources about the Convocation of Sessions, and learn more about how we are celebrating 50 years of PCA ministry at [pca50.org](http://pca50.org).