

**A PRAYER FOR THE PRESEBYTERY & BAY CHURCH
FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / NOVEMBER 19, 2007

[Offered by: The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Peel, Honorably Retired]

God of Reason, God of Emotion, God of Action:

We convene this night, seeking wisdom for next steps in our service to that branch of Your Universal Church we call Presbyterian. Grant Your Spirit as we wrestle anew with the reality of the departure of the Bay Presbyterian Church from our communion in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve.

In our work,

- > where misunderstanding has threatened, we have tried to reason together;
- > where emotions have run high, we have tried to avoid hurt or humiliation;
- > where misinformation has been published, we have endeavored to speak truth in love
- > where action has been called for, we have sought to move in peace.

Forgive us in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve where we have failed to find common ground, where we have been insensitive to what brothers and sisters at Bay Presbyterian have held sacred, where we have sought the path by our own light rather than Yours.

For the Bay Presbyterian congregation and its pastors we pray:

- > that clarity of purpose may prevail, though the Presbytery may not agree
- > that love may temper schism, though Your Church will divide again
- > that decision may bring strength, though the arrogance of certitude may arise
- > that Your Will may be done.

Be among us now. Guide our thoughts and our actions. Teach us anew to respect those with whom we differ. Grant us the humility to confess the limits of peacemaking efforts. Remind us once again of Your Son's teaching to love one another.

In His Holy Name we pray, Amen