Program
The Women in Ministry Initiative
Princeton Theological Seminary Library Room Dedication
Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, New Jersey
May 16, 2016; 2:00 PM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
President Barnes
Professors Evans and Sakenfeld, Co-coordinators of WIM

LITURGY

Opening Sentences Psalm 19:7–10

Scripture Matthew 5: 13-16

Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

Jesus says, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Heavenly Parent in heaven.”

Litany of Thanksgiving
O God, we give thanks for the women and men and youth of your church, who with integrity and depth of faith, with wit and resilience, have mentored us in ministry,
We thank you.
For Miriam, Rahab, and Naomi; Mary and Mary Magdalene, Martha and Mary, Priscilla and Lydia, who showed us how to listen and learn and serve with courage,
We praise you.
For missionaries like Betsey Stockton who dared to reach out into the world with your diligence and grace,
We celebrate you.
For the educators who have stepped out in courage and given us a path to follow: Harriet Prichard, Freda Ann Gardner, Elizabeth Gordon Edwards, Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, Sandra Read Brown, Lois Gehr Livezey, Kathleen Elizabeth McVey, Jane Dempsey Douglass, Judith Eileen Sanderson, and Clarice Jannette Martin,
We thank you.
For the mentors who have given us a vision and a future: Christine Marie Smith, Christine Cozad Neuger, Nancy Jean Duff, Elsie Anne McKee, Nancy Lammers Gross,
Abigail Rian Evans, Beverly Roberts Gaventa, Julie Ann Duncan, Carol Lakey Hess, and
Leonora Tubbs Tisdale,

We praise you.
For sisters in faith, who have given us a dream and a voice to be heard: Kenda Creasy
Dean, Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, Janet Lynn Weathers, Ellen Tabitha Charry,
Jacqueline Evangeline Lapsley, Sally Ann Brown, Eunny Patricia Lee, Bo Karen Lee,
Yolanda Pierce, Lisa M. Bowens, and Sonia E. Waters,

We celebrate you.
We are grateful your call is wide and vast and we may serve you in diverse settings:
congregation and marketplace; community agency and seminary; not-for-profit agency
and classroom; prison and in the arts; government and hospital; east, west, north, and
south,

We thank you.
For pilgrims and prophets, preachers and priests, deacons and elders, ministers and
professors, counselors and social workers, advisors and tutors, students and seekers –
who accept your call,

We thank you, and praise you, and celebrate you, for the lives of those here on earth
and with you in heaven, who give us hope, now and for the future.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome
the prodigal home, God is faithful always. Amen.

Amen.

Dedication
God of wisdom and truth we dedicate this space as a place for
Nurturing relationships, equipping saints for the work of ministry,
Quiet and reflection, laughter and tears, reading and writing,
The cherishing of mind and body, intuition and perception,
And the building up of the body of Christ.
Teach us to love you, O Lord of our lives,
With all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength.
Trusting in Jesus Christ, each and every time we gather.

Ribbon Cutting:
We declare this room, given for the Women in Ministry Initiative, be dedicated to the
Glory of God and to the service of God’s children. Amen.
Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Dedication
Wise and wondrous One
Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path.
Inaugurate here your ministry of teaching and learning.
Nurture the minds and hearts of all who enter to learn and grow.
May our words may be grounded in your Word.
May our compassion be a living demonstration of the Gospel.
May we offer open minds, loving hearts, and thirsty souls.  
And may the seeds of faith sprouted from the soil of this space 
Grow to be rooted and grounded in Love. Amen.

Blessing

Liturgy prepared by the Rev. Lauren J. McFeaters  
Pieces of the liturgy were adapted from The Book of Occasional Services, Presbyterian Church (USA) Geneva Press, 1999, and inspired by the work of June Ramage Rogers of the Ohio Valley Presbytery and the National Network of Presbyterian College Women.