

To open a meeting:

Oh Lord, you have gathered us together as a community called Church
For this we give you thanks.
Let what we say and do here,
what we ponder and decide here,
be real for us and honest to you.
Prepare us for the life of the world,
that through our work, you might be praised.

God of our lives,
you call us to follow you into the future,
inviting us to new ventures,
new challenges,
new ways to care,
new ways to touch the hearts of all.
Help us to follow in everything we say and do here.
When we are fearful, give us courage.
When we worry that we are not up to the task,
remind us that you would not call if you did not need us and believe in us.
When we get tired or disappointed,
remind us that you can bring change and hope to all our work.

God to enfold us,
God to surround us;
God in our speaking,
God in our thinking;
God in our life,
God on our lips;
God in our souls,
God in our hearts.
Amen.

May the strength of God pilot us,
May the power of God preserve us,
May the wisdom of God instruct us,
May the hand of God protect us,
May the way of God direct us,
May the shield of God defend us,
May the host of God guard us.
We give you thanks, God, for your presence in this work.

Close meeting with a continuing charge to our work:

To your care and protection, O Lord,
we commit ourselves and our work.
With your goodness forgive us; with your love inspire us.
By your Spirit guide us; and in your mercy,
keep us, now and always.
Amen.

Lord, grant that we may walk in your presence;
Your love in our hearts,
your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills;
Until our work is done, may we be truly yours.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Be strong and of good courage; do not fear;
For it is God who goes with us,
and God will never fail nor forsake us.
Let us go in peace.
Amen.

God be our comfort, our strength;
God be our hope and support;
God be our light and our way;
And the blessing of God – Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life –
remain with us now and forever.
Amen.