

“... and they’ll know
we are Christians
by our love, by our
love...”

*We are one in the Spirit, The
Book of Praise, 1997*

Meeting 2: Fellowship

Opening Prayer:

ONE: Loving God, as we gather together today,

ALL: we know you are here.

ONE: Be with us in our time together.

ALL: Amen

Hymn: #471 – We are one in the Spirit

Scripture: Romans 12:4-6 and Matthew 18:19-20

Read Together:

The Women’s Missionary Society is a community of Christians whose purpose, in response to the love of God in Jesus Christ, is to encourage one another and all the people of the church to be involved in local and world mission through prayer, study, service, and fellowship

Reflection: We Need One Another

Today, we will focus on fellowship.

Take a moment, close your eyes, and think back to a friend from your childhood. Why were you friends? What did you enjoy doing together? How did they support you?

(Invite participants to share their stories if they would like to.)

Childhood friendships are important. Young children often seem incredibly adept at making friends. Five minutes at the local park, and you will often see



children running and playing with children they have never met before. Too often, I think we lose this as adults. We become more shy or less secure. Yes, we all know those people who seem to be able to talk to anyone, but for many of us, we struggle a little more around making friends as we age. Yet, many studies show that loneliness is associated with declines in physical health, mental health, and cognition.

We need one another. And, we certainly need one another to accomplish the mission work of the church. Within your own WMS group, I am sure you can think of something that each one of you is good at—a gift that you bring. Perhaps one of you has great insight into the scripture. Maybe you are the one that provides great hospitality and ensures that our bodies are fed and we are welcomed. One of you may contribute more financially. Another one, might be great at running the meetings. Maybe you have traveled or are an avid news reader and can provide detailed information on our world. Together, we are stronger.

Together, we are the body of Christ and that is pretty amazing. Together, we fulfill God's purposes. Together, we challenge and encourage one another in our faith. Together, we pool our resources and build hostels for children in India, encourage missionaries around the world, and contribute to places of healing for our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.



Continue meeting together. Know that the time you take to connect with one another, is of great benefit. It allows you to go out and be able to love others. And, continue to work together and support the mission work of your group, your congregation, your community, Canada, and the world.

Prayer:

God of Love, we thank you for our WMS group. We thank you that we are able to meet and support one another. For every member here, and the gifts they bring, we give you thanks.

We pray for those who are away today. Bring healing to those who are ill and protect those who are traveling.

We thank you for the work we do as a national WMS. We pray for the Presbyterian Women's Gathering that it will be a time of renewal for the women of our church, and will encourage us to speak out for justice. We pray for our two Together We Can projects, the Kenora Fellowship Centre, and for projects working to reduce gender-based violence in

**Brother,
sister let me
serve you**

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Haiti. We pray for our partnerships with women around the world, especially the Tumekatana partnership in Africa. We pray for our WMS national executive as they make decisions and guide the work of the WMS.

We thank you for those who work in the name of The Presbyterian Church in Canada around the world. Protect them and guide their work.

Thank you that we can continue to meet together, encourage one another, and support local, national, and world mission. In Jesus name, Amen.

Optional Activity:

Take a large piece of Bristol board and write the name of your WMS group in the centre of the sheet. Ask each person, to write one or two things on this sheet that this group has accomplished together. Thank God for this group and what has been accomplished.

Offering:

The offering will now be received.

Offering Prayer:

Generous God, take these our offering, join them together, and use them to bring hope to this world. Amen.

Hymn:# 634 – Brother, sister let me serve you

Closing:

God, be with each one here as we journey onwards until we meet again.

“I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I’ll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we’ve seen this journey through.”