

SLEEPING MAT BLESSING SERVICE

General Assembly 2015

This July, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will gather in Columbus, OH. Participants will gather for worship, learning, discernment, and service. General Assembly is a special time and place where we can visibly see the larger church at work. Although we can't all be physically present, we can participate.

A partnership between Disciple Women's Ministry and the General Assembly youth program is inviting us to all help create sleeping mats for the homeless. These mats are made out of plastic shopping bags; cut, looped, and crocheted together. Today, we bless our contribution to this ministry.

Leader: Exodus 35: 10 says "All who are skillful among you shall come and make all that the Lord has commanded."

People: **We give thanks for an opportunity to serve our neighbor.**

Leader: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6 says, "⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord: ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

People: **We give thanks for skilled hands and compassionate hearts.**

Leader: Today, we bless these gifts for God's people, created by God's people.

People: **May those who receive our gifts know it as a blessing and gift from God.**

Leader: Loving God, we ask your blessing on these blankets. We pray they might bring healing for wounded hearts, courage in the face of challenges, and an embrace of your love. We know God, that your Spirit can bestow these blessings, and that we are called to be part of the Spirit's work. Continue to guide us as we back these blankets with our personal prayers for the homeless in our world. Amen.

SONG SUGGESTIONS: *Weave*, by Rosemary Crow (Chalice Hymnal)

Bind Us Together Lord, by Bob Gillman