

## *Blessing Box Dedication 2*

### *Setup Suggestions*

Cover a table with bright green cloth (to symbolize new life), add a brightly colored scarf or strips of fabric in several colors/patterns (to symbolize diversity) and a large candle to symbolize Christ's presence with us today and with women through the ages. Add one or more of the newly redesigned Blessing Boxes, something from the history of your local women's group, such as news clippings or photos, a Bible open to the story of Miriam or Naomi, Lydia or the woman at the well.



### *Scripture*

#### **1 Peter 4:10**

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. "

### *Hymn*

" Good Shepherd, We Are Gathered" (From 1998 Quadrennial Assembly Music Packet)

Sing to any of these Chalice Hymnal tunes:

Lead On, O King Eternal, 632

Help Us Accept Each Other 487

O Jesus, I Have Promised 612

The Church's One Foundation 272

Good Shepherd, we are gathered,

you called us each by name

Among us some are Mara.

As Joy, still others came.

Your love and grace enfold us,

Our Thankful song we raise.

Rekindle deep within us

Full lives of faithful praise.

Creator, in your image,

Our spirits are designed.

You share artistic powers,

Life's canvas is cosigned.

When light and vision fail us,

Our thankful song we lift.

Rekindle deep within us

The wisdom of our gifts.

Companion on our journey,

At time we are afraid.

Each step requires courage,

Each day, new choices made:

To acquiesce to evil

or labor truth to birth.

Rekindle deep within us

Love's will to bless the earth.

## ***Litany of Thanksgiving***

**One:** As we bring these offerings we remember our foremothers through the ages who have responded with faith to challenge and change. We gratefully claim our heritage as Disciples Women, and pray that you will keep us ever mindful that we are the foremothers of future generations.

**All:** Thank you, Lord

**One:** We celebrate with thanksgiving the women who have served as leaders in the midst of difficult lives and limited resources. Grant us their gift to find abundance where reason sees only scarcity.

**All:** Thank you, Lord

**One:** With grateful hearts we acknowledge and celebrate the gifts and ministry of lay women, who make up the vast majority of women everywhere.

**All:** Thank you, Lord

**One:** We are grateful for women who have accepted your call to ordained ministry. Theirs is a ministry of courage, obedience, and pioneering spirit.

**All:** Thank you, Lord

**One:** We remember with heartfelt thanks our mentors in faith. Guide us in our gratitude to be mentors to others.

**All:** Thank you Lord.

**One:** As partners in mission, we give thanks for all who serve in your name, even ourselves.

**All:** Thank you, Lord

**One:** Creator God, you have called us by name.

**All:** Grant us grace for the days ahead, that we may meet challenge with courage and receive your blessings with deep, deep thanks.

## ***Offering***

Give a brief explanation of the blessing boxes and what the money goes to fund. (on website)

Play softly or sing "Thank You , Lord" #531 (Chalice Hymnal) or "In Loving Partnership" #497 (Chalice Hymnal), while Participants carry their Blessing Box offerings to the appointed place.

## ***Closing prayer of dedication***

Dear God, God of all, as faithful stewards of our time, talent and worldly goods, we joyfully dedicate these Blessing Box gifts. May your presence be with us, your love surround us and your spirit guide us as we continue in loving partnership as Disciples Women. Open our eyes to the needs of the world and open our hands to the giving and receiving that lead to life abundant, life eternal. Amen

—by Marie F. Fleming adapted from a service by Janis M. Brown, Guideposts, 1999