Commissioning Prayer

(Ask participants to place their right hand on someone else’s right shoulder)

Father, we praise you for the gift of unity that the Spirit creates in our relationships. You place others perfectly in our lives, and inspire us as Christians to work together with the gifts that we have been blessed with. When we look at this retreat through your eyes, we see your gifts fostered in us to further your plans.

Forgive us, Father, for the control and the credit that we grasp for while planning and accomplishing projects together. We confess that honoring you through our work is not always at the forefront of our minds as we strive to accomplish goals. In the spaces of our hearts that harbor envy and ambition, we prayerfully ask you to make room for humility and shared credit.

The church doesn’t stand on any one person's’ shoulders. Not one of us can further your plans on our own. But together, we can complement each other’s strengths and cancel out our weaknesses. As a team, a unified body focused on the Gospel we can do great things in your honor.

Thank you for the ideas that you spoke life into here these last two days, and for the courage of each voice that stood to be heard. In each one of us lies a puzzle piece. One by one, as we stand and speak and work, we see our individual pieces moving into place. We continue to strive for your will, piece by piece, until you call us home.

Bless all of us today. Each of us have a life outside of these walls. There are very real hurts that some are coping with, and needs of others that we ache to help with and meet. Take that stirring of love that we feel for each other and guide our steps to be faithful friends and extensions of your love to those that you have seated beside and across from us.

Lord, we believe that you will provide for us. We look forward to the ways that you will surprise and amaze us with your faithfulness. The lives that you will touch and the people in this room you will use to brighten dark spaces and lift sad hearts. Bless our work. Guide our steps and our progress. Grant us the power of your Holy Spiritto work together.

Bless us Lord, as we leave here today, to take your passion with us. Fan its flame after we part and inspire our best contributions. Help us to walk faithfully after Christ, reflecting His love. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.