

# **Executive Commission 2026**

**Gateway Presbyterian Church**

**13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

## **Morning Devotion Outline – The Serenity Prayer**

*“God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can,  
and wisdom to know the difference.”*

### **Brief Introduction to the Serenity Prayer**

The Serenity Prayer is one of the most widely known Christian prayers of the 20th century. Its background is rooted in ***theology, pastoral ministry, and recovery movements***.

The prayer was written by **Reinhold Niebuhr**, an American theologian and pastor, around 1932–1933. At the time, Niebuhr was serving as a pastor in Massachusetts before later teaching at Union Theological Seminary.

Niebuhr originally wrote the prayer for a church service. It was composed as a pastoral prayer addressing human limitation, divine sovereignty, and Christian responsibility.

The original longer version reads:

***“God, give us grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
courage to change the things which should be changed,  
and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.”***

### **Conclusion**

The serenity prayer remains powerful because it addresses our human struggles:

- What must I accept?
- What must I change?
- How do I know the difference between the two?

*At the end of each discussion, please spend some few moments together to pray.  
Pray also for the meeting sessions of the day.*

## **Group Discussion**

*(To be done in the Executive Commission Groups)*

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

1. **“God, grant me the serenity”** Why is it important to recognize that God is our source of peace? And what is serenity and why is it important? (Reference scriptures: Isaiah 26:3-4; John 14:27)
- ✓ Why is it important to be at peace with God, with those around you, with the Church and with yourself?
- ✓ What is our prayer as we read Romans 12: 9-21 (especially verse 18)?

*Use the last 10 minutes to pray (a) that God will grant us peace in our deliberations this week (b) help us to be at peace with ourselves and with the Church (c) that the world we live in will be peaceful.*

### **Question of the Day**

***Where do I/we need serenity for today’s debate, discussion and decisions?***

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

2. What lesson do we get from **“to accept the things I cannot change”**? Why is this essential to our everyday life? Why is **“accepting”** the first step to dealing with change/healing/reconciliation?

(Reference scriptures: Job 1:20-22; John 8:31-59).

- ✓ Give practical examples where we are struggling as a denomination in coming to terms with the changes happening around us - in the congregations, presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly structures.

*Use the last 10 minutes to pray (a) that God helps us to accept things we cannot change and to make some adjustments wherever necessary (b) that God will give us grace to focus on what matters and what gives life.*

### **Question of the Day**

***Where do I/we need to accept the decisions of the Council without making it too personal?***

## **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

### **3. Why “*courage to change the things I can*”?**

- ✓ Give a practical example where you needed courage to change something or to face some difficult situation in your congregation, presbytery or synod. (Reference scripture: Joshua 1:9)

#### **3.1 “*Wisdom to know the difference*”.**

What is this “***difference***” he is referring to? And why is wisdom important in this instance?

- ✓ Why do we need wisdom “*to the change things we can*” in our Councils, in our planning, in our decision-making processes?

(Reference scriptures: Proverbs 1:1-7; James 1:5).

*Spend the last few minutes in prayer. (a) Pray for the remain meeting sessions and the closing & valedictory service taking place later this morning. (b) Pray that going further in our spiritual journeys, we will know when you to engage with issues and when to just let go.*

## **Question of the Day**

**Where have I/we discovered that I/we lacked courage or wisdom, and what needs to be done about it?**