

# Stir Us To Deeper Discipleship

*“It is Jesus whom we proclaim, teaching everyone in all wisdom so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.”*  
—Colossians 1: 28-29

With the waters of Baptism splashing over us and the sign of the cross made on our forehead, we are marked as disciples. Through Baptism a wondrous relationship is established, connecting us with God and with the church. Our journey of Christian discipleship begins!

The journey compels us to set our heart-compass toward Christ. Along the way, our discipleship “hiking” skills are made concrete in the practices of faith: prayer, worship, study, encouragement, inviting, serving and giving. These practices invite us to seek the same intimate relationship the first disciples shared with their friend, teacher and Lord, Jesus.

Yet, our Christian journey sometimes looks more like loitering than the active, awesome adventure we are offered as disciples. As we remember who we are in Baptism, we open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit invites us to boldly plunge into the fullness of life in Christ. God’s Spirit rushes in and splashes us again and again with the waters of Baptism, stirring us to deeper discipleship!



## Litany of Commitment and Affirmation

*(The pastor may invite learners to come forward to help bless their teachers for the coming year.)*

- A:** The following leaders have been called to teach in our midst this year: *(Names are read as individuals come forward).*
- P:** Today we recognize and bless those who have been called to the ministry of leading, teaching and guiding. The Apostle Paul tells us: “It is Jesus whom we proclaim, teaching everyone in all wisdom so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me” *(Colossians 1:28-29).* *(To the teachers)* Do you accept the responsibility to use your gifts to teach the Word of God, to nurture faith and to model a Christian lifestyle?

**Teachers:** I accept this responsibility and ask God to help and guide me.

- P:** *(To the parents)* God has entrusted you to the care and nurture of these children. Do you promise to create a Christian environment in your home an environment marked with prayer, praise and Christian practices? Do you promise to continue your support and involvement in your child’s faith development in this congregation in partnership with teachers and other staff?

**Parents:** We do, and ask God to help and guide us.

- P:** *(To the learners)* You have heard the promises made by teachers and parents regarding your faith nurture. Do you promise to come to Sunday school and other learning opportunities to learn and grow with others?

**Learners:** We do, and ask God to help and guide us.

- P:** *(To the congregation)* It is our privilege to affirm and support those who are engage in the teaching ministry of this congregation and of God’s kingdom in this place. Will you commit to support them through prayer, encouragement, friendship and participation in education, worship, and service?

**C:** We will, and ask God to help and guide us.

- P:** Let us pray. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon all those who teach and learn. Increase our faithful prayer, study, worship and service, and help us to live and grow in your abundant love and grace. Stir us to a deeper longing for you in our lives that we may boldly bear witness to your Word in all the world. *Amen.*