

A Litany of Remembrance and Hope

- One: Loving God, your Spirit has always been transgressing boundaries, for which we give thanks. You have raised up foremothers who dared take on the tasks never before assumed.
- Many: We give you thanks for Sallie McFague, Rebecca Parker, Faith Rohrbough, and Jeanette Hsieh, earliest women presidents of ATS schools. We treasure their courage.
- One: And then there are BBZ, Martha, Barbara, and others. You accompanied them and granted wisdom and forbearance. They did not shrink back in the face of resistance.
- Many: They charted a pathway that we now follow. We stand on their shoulders in our present tasks.
- One: We give you thanks for Patricia Shoelles, Jane Smith, Marjorie Suchocki, Susan Thistlethwaite, and Fredrica Thomsett, pioneering academic deans who guided the mission of their schools.
- Many: We honor their work and benefit from their example. They envisioned new horizons in the saving work of theological education.
- One: Other women confronted barriers in addition to gender discrimination; they faced structural racism at every turn. We give thanks for Marsha Foster Boyd, Leah Gaskin-Fitchue, Emilie Townes, Barbara Holmes, and Charisse Gillette. They refuse to be discounted, leading with wisdom borne of suffering.
- Other sisters have prevailed: Daisy Machado, Sharon Tan, Katheryn Leung, and Diane Grace Chen claimed new opportunities and performed them with excellence
- Many: We revere their witness and bless their steadfastness through the supply of the Spirit.
- One: Many served in ecclesial traditions where the patriarchal walls of exclusion were high: Baptist, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, and Nazarene.
- Many: We give thanks for their ability to transcend such exclusion.

One: And now will you call to mind and speak the names of other leaders—past or present—who have lighted the way for you?

Many: I give thanks for _____, _____, and _____.

One: We are grateful for new deans and presidents in our current epoch. They demonstrate that you do not cease to supply the leadership needed in our day.

Many: As we gather, may we bless our foremothers, cherish our contemporaries, and welcome those whom God calls for the future.

One: Thanks be to God.

Many: Amen.

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