Moderator offers prayer for the new Prime Minister

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A prayer seeking good judgement for the new Prime Minister Theresa May and her newly appointed ministerial team has been contributed by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

In his prayer, Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr asks that the Prime Minister is granted the strength and peace to discern what is right in the challenges she faces at home and abroad. He also prays the women and men appointed to run our country establish priorities which protect the weak and the vulnerable and address the issues of poverty and inequality which diminish us all.

Dr Barr has <u>previously written of his concern</u> at impact the vote to leave the European Union has had on the political, economic and social foundations of the United Kingdom. His prayer reflects his wish that the new government takes swift action to restore stability and also to address the divisions which have become so apparent in our society.

He said "Given all the political turmoil of recent days, the outcome of the EU referendum, the resignation of David Cameron as Prime Minister and the appointment of Theresa May as his successor it felt appropriate to bring something of the national situation to God and I am glad to offer the following prayer."

PRAYER FOR THE NEW PRIME MINISTER AND HER GOVERNMENT

Ever present God

You are the source of all wisdom and power, compassion and truth.

Hear our prayer for the new Prime Minister, Theresa May.

In all the opportunities and challenges she faces at home and abroad, grant her judgement to discern what is right, a heart that is willing to listen, a commitment to do what is just and a desire to seek the peace of our own country and the wider world.

In all the responsibilities she carries, especially when difficult judgment must be made and difficult decisions taken, may she find in You her strength and her peace.

Hear too our prayer for the women and men appointed to serve in government at Westminster.

We pray Your guiding hand upon them that in their respective departments priorities will be established which enrich our common life, protect people who are weak and vulnerable, and address the issues of poverty and inequality which so diminish us.

Uphold all of us in Your grace and, following Your ways of truth and justice, set our land free from all bitterness and strife, and by the power of Your love, help us to live peacefully with one another and with all Your people the world over.

And to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all glory and praise,

Amen