



# A PRAYER FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**HOLY GOD** in whom we live and move and have our very being,

**THANK YOU** for the gift of your light in the children among us, for your promise to know their greatest joys and their deepest sorrow, for your deep and abiding love.

**TEACH US** our responsibility towards your children. Open our hearts and minds to the needs which we must meet, to gaps that we must fill, to the doors that we must open, to the wisdom that we must impart.

**DIRECT US** in paths of righteousness as we make decisions about our schools - about work and worth, about salary and program support, about the provision of food and transportation and support services.

**GUIDE US** to engage, advocate, listen, ask, and act.

**WE PRAY** for children whose brains are dancing with hope and curiosity;

for children for whom learning is made difficult because of barriers rooted in language, inequity, or challenges of mind and body and medication;

for children who arrive fragile, hungry, scared, sad, and broken;

for children whose legs cannot navigate the stairs of the school bus or the playground or the building;

for children who are nourished by play and beautiful music and the opportunity to create beautiful things;

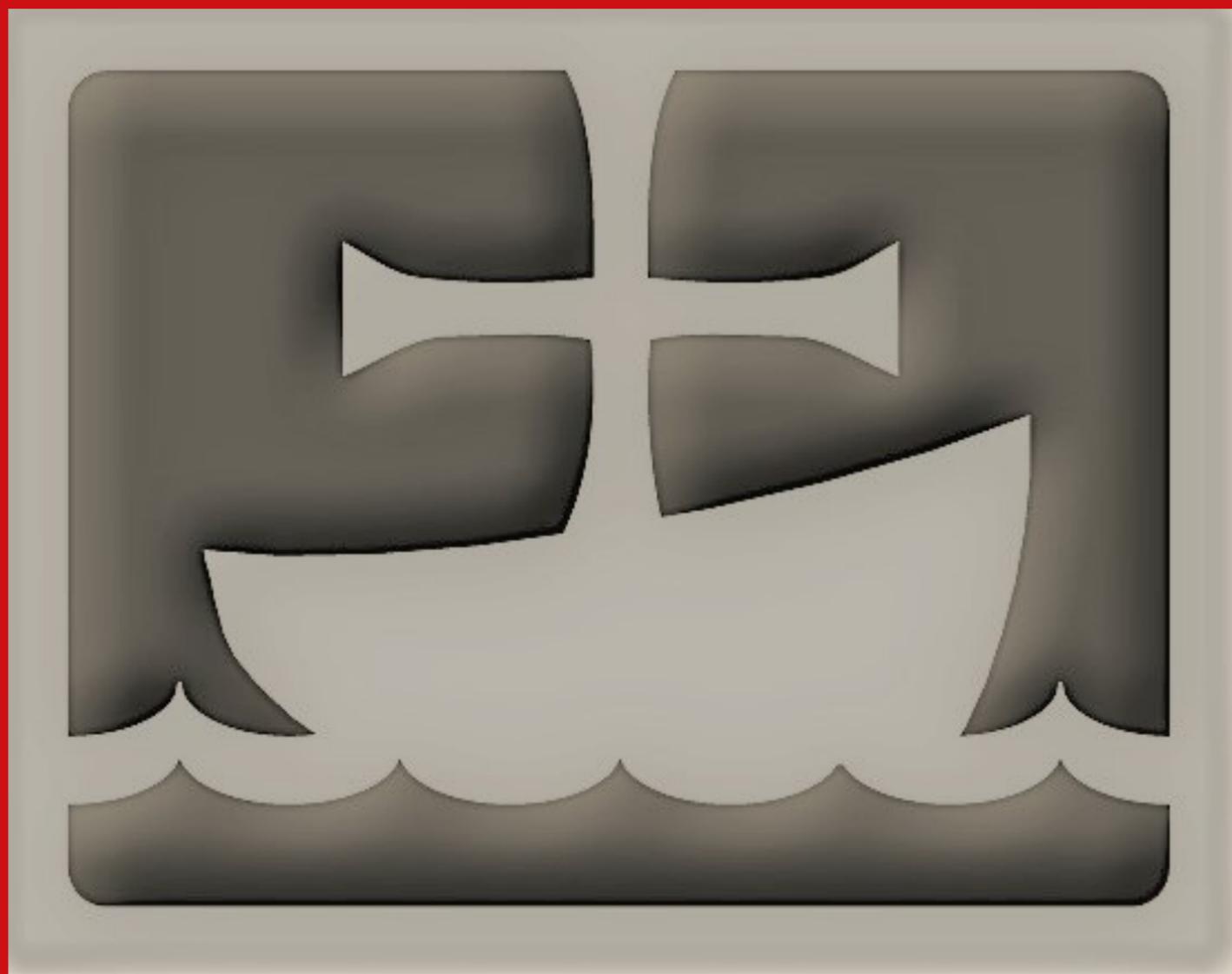
for children for whom school is the only happy and safe place;

for all teachers, bus drivers, custodians, administrators, nutrition specialists, counselors, psychologists, nurses, and volunteers who give all that they have, knowing that more is needed.

**INSPIRE IN US** the courage to advocate, the wisdom to insist on what is right and good, and the compassion to work for wholeness for all children and all who serve them.

# Amen

# North Carolina Council of Churches



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