


## An Association of Christian Ministers to the Public, *Essex Journal*, 2 January 1788

To the PUBLIC.

An Association of Christian Ministers took the liberty, October 10, 1787, humbly to propound *A Concert for Prayer*, to the citizens of the *United States of America*—wherein, the said citizens, were earnestly invited *to unite in setting apart one hour, from seven o'clock to eight*, in the evening of every Lord's-day, meaning the evening following the day, *for extraordinary prayer*—that God would be pleased to spare and save this *infant-nation* from impending ruin.

This Concert has been inserted in divers of the public News-papers, in many of the *Federal states*: Also, printed by itself in a pamphlet, and, communicated, by many of the ministers of religion, to their respective people—And it is hoped, that some thousands of the good people of these States who wish to see church and state, in this nation, in a happy and prosperous situation, have seriously closed with the invitation, in said Concert, and that they will continue instant in prayer, without fainting, 'till the Lord shall come and rain righteousness upon us, and make us, in all respects, civil and religious, a most happy people,

It is now the earnest wish of said Association, that, *in this hour of prayer*, every one would, while addressing the Supreme Being, offer to him humble and unfeigned thanksgivings, For preserving us, as yet, in our national state—For putting an end to the unhappy commotions and tumults, which subsisted at the time of the date of said Concert, and for restoring peace and tranquility to the Commonwealth of *Massachusetts*, in so great a degree, with so little bloodshed.

And whereas all the Federal States, excepting one, in compliance with the requisition of Congress, chose Delegates for a Federal Convention, for the purpose of forming a plan to invest Congress, as head of the nation, with necessary powers to preserve the faith and credit, [601 ] and to support, the dignity and well-being of the nation—And, said Convention, after taking time for mature deliberation, have agreed upon a frame of energetic government for national matters—which has been reported to Congress by said Convention, and transmitted by the Congress to the several legislatures in order to be submitted to a convention of delegates, chosen in each state by the people thereof, for THEIR ASSENT and RATIFICATION—The good people are requested, *in this hour of prayer*, earnestly and seriously to intercede with God, in the name of the great Mediator. That he would be pleased to incline such of the legislatures, as have not as yet done it, to recommend to their constituents to choose a convention of delegates for said purpose—and the several towns, which have not chosen their delegates, to choose such men as have the best understanding of the times, to know what ought to be done in this weighty matter and at this important crisis of our public affairs—Also, that He would be pleased, to give to the members of the several conventions all needed wisdom, coolly to deliberate upon said constitution of Federal Government and the proceedings of the late continental convention relative to it, and graciously to direct and over-rule the deliberations of the several conventions and their doings, to coincide and terminate in the happy establishment

of such a Federal government, as may be adapted to the common safety and happiness of the whole union.

A well-framed constitution of government—A right administration of the powers of government—A peaceable and orderly behaviour of the citizens, together with industry and good œconomy—The flourishing of trade, commerce, manufactures, husbandry and the like, and the preservation of public faith and credit, are necessary to the common safety and happiness of a people. And piety, religion and morality, generally prevailing among all ranks and orders in a nation, will be of vast advantage to a people, to promote their safety and happiness, as the general prevalence of these will produce a right administration of the powers of government in rulers—a peaceable and orderly behaviour, industry and good œconomy in citizens, &c. But as to the future well-being of individuals, true piety, religion and virtue, are of infinite importance.—Let us then, not only pray for the prosperity of church and state, but live in the exercise of godliness and virtue. And let us not forget to give thanks to God, for the late *institution*, in the commonwealth of *Massachusetts*, for propagating the christian religion among the *aboriginal natives of America*—Nor, to pray, that it may be succeeded for the speedy conversion of those savage and heathen tribes to the practice of christian piety, religion and virtue.

*By an Association of Christian MINISTERS*

December 19, 1787.

*\*\* The several Printers in the Federal Union are requested to insert the foregoing Address to the Public, in their News-Papers—And the Ministers of Religion, to communicate the same to their respective people.*

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