

## Invocation at the ACNM 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Exhibition

*Rabbi Mendel Popack*

“Sovereign of the universe, who created all in love, teach us to love all that is good and beautiful in this world.

“Teach us to honor the dignity of difference, recognizing that one who is not in our image is none-the-less in your image; never forgetting that the people not like us, are still people – like us.

“Allow us to draw inspiration from this gathering of our peers, to re-energize and reaffirm our commitment to our sometimes challenging yet awe-inspiring task.

“Grant us the courage to challenge the medical status quo, to support and empower the women under our care at all stages in their lives to recognize the blessing and uniqueness of their femininity and assist them to embrace their sacred role in the process of sustaining and birthing new life.

“At this fateful moment in the human story, we express our gratitude for the opportunity to provide a nurturing, safe and embracing environment to invite a new generation of life into this world.

“Allow us to recognize OUR gift of participating in the miracle of new beginnings as we stand by the side of future mothers at the most intimate moments of their lives.

“The Talmud relates that to sustain one life, is equal to sustaining the entire world. Each individual is indeed an entire world. Grant us the wisdom to understand and appreciate this as we greet each new life, and the presence of mind to enhance and uplift the ‘world’ of each individual we encounter.

“Grant good health to the women under our care, bless the mothers with easy labors and deliveries and may the children we deliver be born in good health and live to fulfill the infinite potential that they carry, as they become our future.

“To quote our teacher Moses – “May it be your will that the glory of your presence dwell in the work of our hands.”

“And let us say Amen.”

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