

Submitted by: Northern California Nevada Conference PAAM  
[Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries]

### **PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

General Synod Resolution for 2007, based on Annual Meeting Action,  
“When Justice Is Turned Back” (2005)

Brief Statement of Purpose: To insist that the Law of Justice be brought to bear upon the abhorrent injustices currently being carried out and tolerated in the Philippines by sending a Resolution of Witness to General Synod XXVI, based on the Administrative Action taken at Annual Meeting in 2005.

*“... let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Amos 5:24*

Background Statement: In 2005 the Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference took the following Administrative Action: That the Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ requests the President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries, and the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, USA to urge President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and President George W. Bush to stop the terror and violence against leaders who call for justice, truth, freedom, human rights, and abundant life for all in the land that calls itself the Pearl of the Orient, and that the prayerful concern of the United Church of Christ, USA be communicated to our partner denomination, the United Church of Christ of the Philippines.

Despite the response of the leaders of the national setting of the United Church of Christ USA, and the voices of leaders and missionaries from the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church USA; despite the Peace and Human Rights Summit held by ecumenical leaders in the Philippines last July; despite the prayers and the tears, the killings in the Philippines of farmers, students, community organizers, and religious workers continues. There have been more than 800 unsolved killings since 2001, in addition to enforced disappearances, with strong indications that the “extra-legal” death squads are operating with the assent of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the support of the military, and the commitment by the United States government to \$179 million in “counter-insurgency” funding. James Petras and Robin Eastman-Abaya reported in March, 2006, on the process by which the Philippine military “proscribes” individuals and groups as terrorists “on what it claims to be ‘secret intelligence’ in order to criminalize their right to resist oppression and fight for self-determination and justify their elimination. The creation of these ‘lists’ is outside of the process of judicial scrutiny and limits any legal protection for the victims or their survivors.”

Prompted by the reports of continuing terror; by the allocation of the Philippine government in January of \$208 million for military hardware upgrades, while education, medical care, and gainful employment for most people are neglected; by our sense of solidarity with our partner denomination the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) among whose members were 15 of the 25 religious workers who have been killed; and by the recent visit and message

to our Conference by Bishop Eliezer M. Pascua, General Secretary of the UCCP and his testimony before the US Senate Sub-Committee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs we ask that the Conference Annual Meeting in 2007 send a Resolution of Witness to the General Synod to heighten awareness of the situation in the Philippines throughout the United Church of Christ, USA, and to foster greater commitment of the resources and leadership of the national offices of the UCC USA to ending this disregard for human rights.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO BE VOTED:** That the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, send to General XXVI the proposed Resolution of Witness below, based on action taken at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference and enhanced by recent events and ongoing violence against leaders who call for justice, truth, freedom, human rights, and abundant life for all in the land that calls itself the Pearl of the Orient.

Fiscal Impact: \$40 to cover costs of paper and printing for General Synod

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