



National United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines

Philippines Central Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



National Executive Committee

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

15 March 2017

To whom it may concern:

Greetings of peace!

The attached Resolution, *A Resolution Affirming the Stand of the United Methodist Social Principles Against Death Penalty*, is hereby commended to the United Methodist Youth in the Philippines, and to all concerned, for prayerful consideration. This Resolution, as drafted by **John Paul Corpuz, Kevin Jaron Pedrosa, and Russnyl Panopio, with the assistance of Dan Kesniel Rombaoa, who constituted the Council Committee on Resolutions**, was **approved unanimously** by the members of the National Youth Council assembled in Guimba United Methodist Church, Guimba, Nueva Ecija on February 17 to 19, 2017.

Si Kristo higit sa lahat!

In His service,

Kevin John Maddela

National President, United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:

Richard Mel Caplis

National Executive Secretary, United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines

NOTED:

Rev. Cristine Atrero

National Youth Coordinator, United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines

Dr. Dorbien Neil Peralta

National Youth Coordinator, United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines

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2016- 2018

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A Resolution Affirming the Stand of the United Methodist Social Principles Against Death Penalty

Resolution No. 3, s. 2016-2018

WHEREAS, the National Youth Council of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines (hereinafter referred to as “UMYFP”) is the highest deciding and legislating body of the UMYFP while its National Youth Conference that meets biannually is in recess;

WHEREAS, the National Youth Council convened on February 17 to 19, 2017 in Guimba United Methodist Church, Guimba, Nueva Ecija;

WHEREAS, the National Youth Council reviewed the stand of the United Methodist Church as printed in its *Social Principles*. Though the *Social Principles* are not necessarily binding to all United Methodists, members are encouraged to consider these in their personal faith reflection to guide them in answering the question “*What God wants me to do?*” in the midst of perplexing social realities;

WHEREAS, the Paragraph 164 of the *Social Principles* concerning *The Political Community*, as printed in the *2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* that serves as the authority in ordering the Church states in its preamble that “*While our allegiance to God takes precedence over our allegiance to any state, we acknowledge the vital function of government as a principal vehicle for the ordering of society*”;

WHEREAS, Section G of the aforementioned paragraph concerning *Death Penalty* states that “*We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings. The United Methodist Church is deeply concerned about crime throughout the world and the value of any life taken by a murder or homicide. We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable. When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person’s life ends. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the possibility of reconciliation with Christ comes through repentance. This gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception and gives all life new dignity and sacredness. For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes*”;

WHEREAS, the following section on *Criminal and Restorative Justice* states that “*To protect all persons from encroachment upon their personal and property rights, governments have established mechanisms of law enforcement and courts. A wide array of sentencing options serves to express community outrage, incapacitate dangerous offenders, deter crime, and offer opportunities for rehabilitation. We support governmental measures designed to reduce and eliminate crime that are consistent with respect for the basic freedom of persons.*

We reject all misuse of these mechanisms, including their use for the purpose of revenge or for per-



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secuting or intimidating those whose race, appearance, lifestyle, economic condition, or beliefs differ from those in authority. We reject all careless, callous, or discriminatory enforcement of law that withholds justice from persons with disabilities and all those who do not speak the language of the country in which they are in contact with the law enforcement. We further support measures designed to remove the social conditions that lead to crime, and we encourage continued positive interaction between law enforcement officials and members of the community at large.

In the love of Christ, who came to save those who are lost and vulnerable, we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole. Restorative justice grows out of biblical authority, which emphasizes a right relationship with God, self, and community. When such relationships are violated or broken through crime, opportunities are created to make things right.

*Most criminal justice systems around the world are retributive. These retributive justice systems profess to hold the offender accountable to the state and use punishment as the equalizing tool for accountability. In contrast, restorative justice seeks to hold the offender accountable to the victimized person, and to the disrupted community. **Through God's transforming power, restorative justice seeks to repair the damage, right the wrong, and bring healing to all involved, including the victim, the offender, the families, and the community. The Church is transformed when it responds to the claims of discipleship by becoming an agent of healing and systemic change**”;*

BE IT RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVES, that the National Youth Council of UMYFP make a Resolution to indicate their affirmation, unwavering commitment, and support to the aforementioned statements in the *Social Principles* of The United Methodist Church and implore United Methodists to do the same;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that all of the levels of the UMYFP and its members be encouraged to initiate ministries towards the redemption of the sacred worth of every individual by the grace of the Lord and Savior of All, Jesus Christ, according to their own contexts. This may include training and coaching of the *Social Principles*, immersion to people in jail, legal clinics, among others;

FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution, as certified by the National Secretary, be disseminated through all means possible by the National Executive Committee of the UMYFP;

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY this 19th day of February, 2017 in Guimba United Methodist Church, Guimba, Nueva Ecija.