



IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA DE VENEZUELA
120 años de la IPV - 500 años de La Reforma
"Con las manos puestas en el arado, mirando hacia adelante" Lucas 9:62

PASTORAL LETTER

TO WOMEN AND MEN OF GOOD WILL:

At the XXIX Meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela, held in Barquisimeto, Lara, from April 13-15, 2018, we unanimously decided to make space in the institutional agenda to express our reflections, contributions and recommendations on the current situation facing our country. We speak from a pastoral perspective, while at the same time assuming a prophetic voice of proclamation and denunciation. Our goal is to transcend mere discursive critique and simple catharsis and engage in a solution-oriented and transformative way that aligns with our understanding of the citizenship we are called to practice in this land of grace where we dwell and where the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela ministers.

In the context of this third Sunday of the season of Resurrection,

WE PROCLAIM THAT:

- We believe in the God of Life and Hope who is not indifferent, but rather sensitive to, the historical realities of peoples in general and persons in particular.
- We believe in the Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth, whom the Spirit of God "has sent to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. . .to provide for those who mourn, to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." (Isaiah 61:1-3, NRSV)
- We believe in the Word Incarnate, who pitches his tent in our midst, who inhabits us and accompanies our peoples in their liberation struggles. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14 NRSV)
- We believe in the sovereignty of God and in God's pedagogy as the hermeneutical keys for interpreting history.
- We believe in the project of God's Reign and its values: love, peace as the fruit of justice, hope, solidarity, fellowship. We also believe that "another world is possible;" the fulfillment of all human rights will provide the foundation for that world, which we are called to build in our midst.

Sínodo Nacional de la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela.
Calle Colegio Americano, Edificio de la Unidad Educativa Colegio Americano.
Altos de Las Minas, 1080. Baruta, Estado Miranda, Venezuela
Teléfono: 0212 944 53 26. Tel/Fax: (58 2) 943.35.29 y 945.08.08.
Correo electrónico: ipvsinodo@gmail.com
Apartado Postal: Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela. Apartado 75396. Caracas 1070-A, Venezuela.



IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA DE VENEZUELA
120 años de la IPV - 500 años de La Reforma
"Con las manos puestas en el arado, mirando hacia adelante" Lucas 9:62

WE DENOUNCE:

- The profound moral and ethical crisis evidenced in many ways in Venezuelan society that impedes a healthy common life and the efficient functioning of the different branches of government to the detriment of peace with justice. Without these things there is no guarantee that all will have access to a good quality of life, built on the principle of equity that favors the most vulnerable sectors of our country.
- The corruption at all levels that afflicts the nation and forms part of the structural sin that currently characterizes our country.
- The limited capacity for dialog evidenced in some political sectors in the country that results in the deterioration of the well-being of the people and of national sovereignty, thus threatening the normal development of national life.
- The fragmentations and distortions that contribute nothing to finding solutions for the ethical, political, social and economic crises that overwhelm us. To avoid this, the Venezuelan crisis should be seen and analyzed in a global and multi-factored sense.
- The continuous violations of our right as a people to free self-determination, without interference or intervention from any other country, recognizing Venezuela's historic respect for the sovereignty of other nations. In this sense, we also denounce the economic blockade of which we are victims, affecting our fundamental human rights such as access to food, medicine and other goods necessary for life.
- All those economic actions that hinder our ability to live with dignity, which principally affect the most vulnerable members of society.
- All those situations that have led so many of our compatriots to abandon the country, placing at risk their own psycho-social health and that of their families who suffer the grief of separation and its consequences.
- All actions by political, social, cultural and religious institutions that help to promote a culture of death, represented in such values as individualism, egotism, despair, refusal to recognize difference, intolerance, and all that gives primacy to having over being.
- All actions and projects that threaten nature and sustainable development, the ecological balance of the planet and our national territory, placing at risk all living beings in creation and the natural resources with which our beloved Venezuela has been favored.

Sínodo Nacional de la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela.
Calle Colegio Americano, Edificio de la Unidad Educativa Colegio Americano.
Altos de Las Minas, 1080. Baruta, Estado Miranda, Venezuela
Teléfono: 0212 944 53 26. Tel/Fax: (58 2) 943.35.29 y 945.08.08.
Correo electrónico: ipvsinodo@gmail.com

Apartado Postal: Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela. Apartado 75396. Caracas 1070-A, Venezuela.



IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA DE VENEZUELA
120 años de la IPV - 500 años de La Reforma
"Con las manos puestas en el arado, mirando hacia adelante" Lucas 9:62

AS A CHURCH WE COMMIT OURSELVES:

- To all that empowers and makes possible the right to life with dignity.
- To be part of the solution and not part of the problem, conscious that we are salt and light in Venezuelan society. "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven" (Matthew 5: 13-16 NRSV).
- To continue formulating plans, programs and projects to carry out actions that respond to the needs of the current Venezuelan context, in accordance with the Gospel's option for the varied faces of the vulnerable in our country.
- To use our pulpits as a platform for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth that consoles, restores, heals, empowers and transforms. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation. . ." (Romans 1:16 NSRV).
- Not to join the ranks of those whose words and actions help to bury dreams, utopias and hopes, negating that "another world is possible" and rejecting all that Venezuela can be.
- To choose life in all its manifestations, as bearers of the liberating message of the gospel and the values of God's Reign, through the Risen Christ.
- To promote in word and deed our faith and trust in this country, in its potential, in its capacity for resilience to rise above difficulty and overcome adversity.
- To re-dimension the present moment, understanding it as Kairos, God's time, called by sacred scripture and through a proactive understanding of our reality to exercise our role as emissaries of peace, bearers of the message of reconciliation. "So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20 NSRV).
- To accompany the people in the processes of learning-unlearning-relearning and doing all within our reach to contribute to making Venezuela a better country, where each day it is possible, in the words of Venezuelan poet Aquiles Nazoa, to unleash "the creative powers of the people", elevating our self-esteem and strengthening our understanding of ourselves in light of the most noble and pure expressions of Venezuelan values.

Sínodo Nacional de la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela.
Calle Colegio Americano, Edificio de la Unidad Educativa Colegio Americano.
Altos de Las Minas, 1080. Baruta, Estado Miranda, Venezuela
Teléfono: 0212 944 53 26. Tel/Fax: (58 2) 943.35.29 y 945.08.08.
Correo electrónico: ipvsinodo@gmail.com

Apartado Postal: Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela. Apartado 75396. Caracas 1070-A, Venezuela.



IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA DE VENEZUELA
120 años de la IPV - 500 años de La Reforma
"Con las manos puestas en el arado, mirando hacia adelante" Lucas 9:62

- To pray without ceasing, with all prayer and supplication, in full awareness that, even in the current time of chaos, the Spirit of God moves over the face of the waters. And above the chaos, God calls into existence that which can give form to all that is amorphous, that which can shine light into the darkness, placing all in its proper place, in the time and space where life springs forth and is revived, to the glory of God (Genesis 1 & 2 NSRV).

In Barquisimeto on April 15th, 2018,

Rev. Zulema García de Rojas

Moderator

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela

Elder Berla Andrade de Vargas

Moderator

Central Presbytery

Elder Nyeser Gómez Ocanto

Moderator

Occidental Presbytery

And delegates to the XXIX Synod Assembly

Sínodo Nacional de la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela.
Calle Colegio Americano, Edificio de la Unidad Educativa Colegio Americano.
Altos de Las Minas, 1080. Baruta, Estado Miranda, Venezuela
Teléfono: 0212 944 53 26. Tel/Fax: (58 2) 943.35.29 y 945.08.08.
Correo electrónico: ipvsinodo@gmail.com
Apartado Postal: Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela. Apartado 75396. Caracas 1070-A, Venezuela.