

**DECLARATION OF THE IX SYNODAL COUNCIL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF VENEZUELA, FEBRUARY 27, 2000**

**“The Gospel confronts the economic injustice  
and the destruction of the Earth”**

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.

You visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to use,  
to bring forth food from the earth,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.

*Psalms 65:5.9; 104:14-15<sup>a</sup> (New Revised Standard Version)*

We are regret, in the light of the biblical testimony, that the global economic model privileges capital as an absolute value, even at the expense of the dignity of life in all its forms. Work no longer sustains life, and economy mistreats the earth.

We sincerely confess before our Creator and Sovereign God, with hearts full of pain and regret, admitting that we have been part of the unjust economic exploitation and that we have remained silent in the face of the destruction of our home, God’s creation. In our economy, the best has been used for the good of a minority, whilst the rest of the people remain in a state of sad discrimination which is completely against God’s divine mandate.

In the light of the biblical testimony we feel challenged:

1. - To comprehend the present economic context.
2. - To educate members of the church.
3. - To reflect biblically and theologically on work, economy and the rest of the earth.
4. - To work alongside movements and organizations that also intend to produce changes in these areas.

Mérida, February 27, 2002.

*Translated by María Eugenia Mendizábal.*