

**DECLARATION OF SAN JOSÉ, 2006. AIPRAL MESOAMERICAN REGION MEETING:
THE WORD OF THE GOSPEL IN THE FACE OF ECONOMICAL UNFAIRNESS AND
EARTH DESTRUCTION. 2-6 NOVEMBER, 2006, SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA**

Reunited in the City of San Jose (Costa Rica) at the office of the Nazarene Seminary of the Americas (2 to 6 of November, 2006) the brothers and sisters of South America that belong to the Alliance of Reformed Presbyterian Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL, in Spanish) reflected on the following subjects: “The word of the Gospel in the face of economical unfairness and Earth destruction”, intending to discover which our role is as Churches and aiming at co-advocate in the serious problems that have been affecting most excluded communities within our region.

Hence, we express our deep concern about the economic and social policies that are being unfolded by the neoliberal model and that are generating and massively propelling the crudest poverty, seclusion and flagrant violation of the most elemental Human Rights of the most excluded communities within our countries. As Churches, we consider we cannot remain indifferent neither to these already existing crises nor to those to come. Moreover, we consider we should vehemently act in the rescue of that model of life in equity and justice God has called us to live in; and to foster life in plenitude and in abundance of all people in a committed stewardship of the creation.

Considering the following:

That as Church we believe in the biblical-theological postulates embraced by the Holy Scripture and we pronounce ourselves as faithful to them in the face of the pain of our peoples and creation.

That the Earth is a creation of God and –under the stewardship perspective– it is available for all men and women to work in harmony, peace and just relationships with nature.

That we identify ourselves with the biblical paradigms, this is, believing that as people of God we are responsible for a correct stewardship of the creation aiming at providing each human being with a better, fairer, more responsible life in solidarity with the others and the community.

Therefore, the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of the Mesoamerican Region, commit to:

- As a prophetic Church: to restrain fear and to make concrete actions denouncing, informing and creating consciousness of the deep economic and environmental crises we are living through amongst the population we are responsible for.

- As citizens: to recognize and to seize the rights and duties as stated in the republican Constitutions of our countries and to make respect them and to insist in their importance for public policies of our nations.

We commit to be faithful stewards of the creation, guardians of our natural environment, of health, finances, human and logistical resources in benefit of our Church, our communities, and our countries in faithful fulfilling of our prophetic and pastoral mission.

San José, Costa Rica; November 4, 2006.

Subscribers: All delegates taking part of the meeting.

Translated by María Eugenia Mendizábal.