

## Declaration of the Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL) on the 20th Anniversary of the Accra Confession

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup> We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2a, NVT)*

San Salvador, El Salvador, February 2025

The Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL) is a fraternal community of churches that share the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition in the region. Since the 1955 Congress established it as the Presbyterian Cooperation Commission of Latin America (CCPAL), AIPRAL has been dedicated to promoting unity, dialogue, and collaboration among its members, seeking to serve jointly, bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Latin American and Caribbean context. Its mission focuses on strengthening the life and mission of the churches, fostering theological reflection, social commitment, and ecumenical action in favor of justice, peace, human dignity, and the care of creation.

AIPRAL, gathered in San Salvador from February 17 to 21, 2025, expresses its deep concern over the difficult situation facing our countries and churches.

In a context marked by political polarization, rampant impoverishment, idolatry of capital, and ideological and theological fundamentalisms, we seek to provide pastoral support to our suffering peoples.

We confess that we are churches following Jesus Christ, born in Palestine. Our sole obedience and absolute loyalty are to the God of Jesus and His project, known as the "Kingdom of God." This is the only project of life to which we owe total fidelity. We do not belong to any ideology, political party, or system. Only to God and His Gospel. We denounce any power, ideology, or authority in the world that seeks to take the place of God in creation and humanity.

We confess that our churches have participated in the past, and continue to participate in the present, in shameful actions of domination, oppression, and colonialism. We have not been exempted from sin, and therefore, we ask for forgiveness (including historical forgiveness) from the

indigenous populations who were subjected to violent strategies of forced "evangelization." We ask forgiveness for abuse, impoverishment, marginalization, extermination, and expulsion from their territories. In most of these cases, we have participated with biased and fragmented complicity, preferring to look to heaven for a distant God rather than bearing witness to our faithfulness to God on earth. We confess our sin and seek paths of restorative justice through our efforts as churches striving to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We stand in solidarity with those whose rights are violated and who cry out for justice. We raise our prophetic voice to defend the right to life, dignity, and "Buen Vivir," conceived by our ancestral wisdom in Abya Yala (Latin America and the Caribbean).

We commit to unmasking discriminatory, racist, gender-based, classist, and xenophobic practices that seek to undermine the creative work of our peoples.

Latin America and the Caribbean are the most unequal regions in the world. The economic gap between the wealthy and the impoverished in Abya Yala is immoral. This disparity has been built at the cost of blood and exploitation, from the colonization of our indigenous peoples, which represented the greatest plundering in history, to the current global system, which, with an ultra-neoliberal economy, produces the largest human mobility crisis we have ever known.

This unresolved global situation guides our commitment to the "Accra Confession"<sup>1</sup>, in favor of economic justice, in the face of the growing concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a global minority.

Far from positively transforming our reality, twenty years after the Accra Confession, we bear witness to an increasingly extractivist, oppressive, unjust, and idolatrous global system (worshipping the god of Capital). The exploitation of human labor and the devastation of nature make humanity the worst predator to have ever walked the Earth.

Our Latin American and Caribbean continent suffers, as never before, from the scourge of violence. Our peoples mourn the deaths of their citizens, sometimes at the hands of organized crime but at other times at the hands of our own governments, co-opted by corrupt systems. We cannot deny that many of our governments, despite being elected by the majority of the citizens, have been infiltrated and corrupted by organized crime in some cases, and in others, they serve the oppressive interests of the dominant global powers.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wcrceu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AccraConfession-EN.pdf>

The recent tragic experience of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed an even greater pandemic, which we call 'intrafamilial violence,' but which is in reality, a gender-based violence. This is an unresolved issue we urgently reclaim as churches of the Reformation. All peoples are made in the 'image and likeness' of God, so any attack on women's integrity is reprehensible and against the divine creative will. Femicide is a practice that we must denounce, condemn, and eradicate. Hate crimes motivated by anyone's sexual identity are an affront to God's boundless love. Regardless of our members' and churches' beliefs and positions in AIPRAL, we affirm that we fight for all rights for all people, as we learn from Jesus in His greatest commandment: "love."

From the Rio Grande to Tierra del Fuego, our peoples, led by the inexhaustible strength of the *Divine Ruaj* in women, mothers, sisters, and daughters of the disappeared, have continued the search for their loved ones taken by the violence of military governments, state forces, and multiple criminal gangs in our countries. We affirm to these women and families that hope is the one thing that the "powers of death" cannot steal from us because within them dwells the sustaining power of Divine Tenderness. AIPRAL has accompanied and will continue to accompany these searches, without yielding to the powers of violence and death.

As AIPRAL churches, we commit to building paths for peace in the region. We pray for the countries of the world that seek reconciliation and ceasefire in their wars. We pray that all warring nations find a solution where people are prioritized and considered through peace negotiations.

Just as our churches once denounced Apartheid in South Africa, we demand an end to the annihilation of the Palestinian people, driven today by imperial colonial interests.

We denounce any attack on the human rights of our peoples. We denounce the abuse of power for personal or elite interests. We denounce the subordination of our rulers to global economic powers and powerful nations. We denounce the economic blockade practices imposed by powerful countries on our brotherly nations in Latin America. We stand in solidarity and pray for our churches in Cuba and Venezuela, asking God to restore peace, harmony, reconciliation, and, above all, the dignity of living in freedom, without domination by any external interest against the will of its citizens.

**AIPRAL reaffirms its commitment to continue working for a more  
just, fraternal, and peaceful world for all.**

***¡SOLI DEO GLORIA!***