

Pastoral Letter to the Communities of the AIPRAL Family

"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. ² 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 de 2025

The Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL, Spanish acronym) is a fraternal community of churches that share the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition in the region. Since its foundation in 1955, AIPRAL has been dedicated to promoting unity, dialogue, and collaboration among its members, seeking to serve together in bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Latin American context.

Gathered as AIPRAL in San Salvador from February 17 to 21, 2025, we express our deep concern about the difficult situation in our countries and churches. In a context marked by political polarization, rampant impoverishment, the idolatry of capital, and ideological and theological fundamentalism, we seek to pastorally accompany our suffering peoples.

We confess that, in AIPRAL, we are churches that follow Jesus, the Christ born in Palestine. Our only absolute obedience and loyalty is to the God of Jesus and His project, known as the "Reign of God," which is the only project of life to which we owe total faithfulness. We do not belong to any ideology, political party, or system—only to God and His gospel. We denounce any power, ideology, or worldly authority that seeks to take the place of God in creation and humanity.

We stand in solidarity with the pain of those whose rights are violated and who cry out for justice. We urge our churches to raise their prophetic voice in defense of the right to life, dignity, and "Buen Vivir" (Good Living, Sumak Kawsay), including the care of God's creation, as understood by our ancestral wisdom in Abya Yala (Latin America and the Caribbean). We commit ourselves and call on our communities to expose discriminatory, racist, gender-based, classist, and xenophobic practices that seek to undermine the creative work of our people, as well as to strengthen efforts to care for our common home.

Latin America and the Caribbean are the most unequal regions in the world, and the evidence is visible in each of our countries. Human mobility is a catastrophic consequence of unviable economies and violence that threatens life on our continent, especially the lives of women, girls, and adolescents.

Just as our churches in the past denounced *Apartheid* in South Africa, we call for an end to all acts of annihilation of the Palestinian people driven by imperial colonial interests of today. We also advocate for ending all armed conflicts that disrupt harmony between peoples, praying for dialogue processes that ensure a just and lasting peace.

These unresolved situations guide our commitment to the *Confession of Accra* in favor of economic justice and the care of creation in the face of the growing concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a global minority.

From the faith that we celebrate in these days of gathering, just like the visionary of Patmos, we announce a new world order represented by "*new heavens and a new earth*" (Revelation 21:1-3), where love, peace with justice and dignity, and equity will become a reality for all people. And so, in that hope, we will continue to persevere and bear witness to the Gospel.

*Delegates from AIPRAL member churches to the celebration
for the Twentieth Anniversary of the Accra Confession.*

San Salvador, February 21, 2025