



Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

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“United to Serve”

Under the slogan "Revive your work in our own time" (Habakkuk 3: 2b), the Cuban Council of Churches meets in its Study Assembly on October 30 and 31, 2019 at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas, the historical capital of the province of the same name, in which the first Protestant congregation of Cuba was founded, in 1883, by the patriotic missionary Pedro Duarte, under the name "Faithful to Jesus."

We declare:

That our faithfulness to Jesus Christ is unwavering, that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and his gospel compels us to proclaim the holistic mission, the good news for the poor, for all humankind and all creation, the gospel of peace, love, faith and hope, that there is no other Lord we should serve except Him.

That as the Cuban Council of Churches *"We are a fellowship of churches, ecumenical movements and other Christian institutions that confess the Lord Jesus Christ as Son of God and Savior, in accordance with the Old and New Testament Scriptures, and seek to fulfill their common vocation, the glory of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit."*

"Our Mission is to promote spaces for meeting, celebration, reflection and formation of churches, ecumenical movements and other Christian institutions, as a visible expression of the unity to which God calls us in Jesus Christ, in service to our people."

Today in pain we look at how our people, our families, our congregations are affected by measures that intensify the economic, commercial and financial blockade, the longest in history, illegally imposed on our country by the government of the United States of America.

We believe that our duty and mission as churches is to be on the side of justice and truth, as Christ would be, who did not come to dwell on the thrones of the

powerful, or the emperors of his time, who never knelt before them, but was born in the humble stable of Bethlehem.

We appreciate the position of the international community that is on the side of Cuba when each year in the General Assembly of the United Nations it votes massively so that this aberration of the human species, which is this blockade, will one day be erased from history.

We also thank God for the Churches and for all the faithful from various parts of the world, particularly in the USA, that every day struggle and show their solidarity with our country. While we recognize that the people from the USA themselves are deprived of their rights and freedom, as well as being limited to a mutually enriching relationship and exchanges between people of both nations in all areas of life, science, medicine, sports, art, culture and religion.

The recent measures taken by the administration of President Donald Trump and the entire blockade as a whole affect the life of all sectors of our people, education, health, culture, development, spiritual life and family, the latter, among the main victims.

For all this, we call on peace, the international community, the churches, the ecumenical movement and the partners in the United States and around the world, to accompany the Cuban people and Churches in their pastoral mission together with their People, and denounce and promote the end of the blockade. Likewise, we urge our Cuban people, inside and outside the country, to continue highlighting and living the values that have characterized us as a nation, of solidarity, love and mutual support.

The Cuban Council of Churches reaffirms its commitment to continue working for the visible unity of the churches, serving and pastorally accompanying our people and nation, seeking together the paths of peace, faith and hope, dignity of the people and care of Creation, to help us build and live the signs of the Kingdom of God, of equality and love for all in the midst of our beloved Homeland.

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2,44-46 NRV).

Rev. Joel Ortega Dopico
Executive Secretary

Rev. Antonio Santana Hernández
President