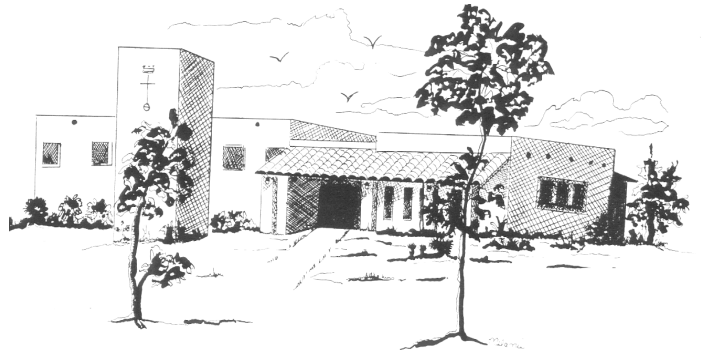


Good News from  
The Good Shepherd  
United Church of Christ

17750 S. La Canada Road  
Sahuarita AZ 85629  
520-625-1375  
Fax: 520-625-7230

E-mail: [seeyou@thegoodshepherducc.org](mailto:seeyou@thegoodshepherducc.org)  
<http://www.TheGoodShepherdUCC.org>



July 2011

**Our Mission Statement:**

**The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ welcomes all as we strive to be disciples, boldly living as God's witnesses and celebrating our intergenerational and multicultural life together. The Good Shepherd is an Open and Affirming Congregation.**

UCC General Synod  
Meets in Florida

The 28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ is taking place July 1-5, in Tampa, FL. Our own Anna Griessel will be there, accompanying her husband Scott, who is doing some photography work for Synod. We'll look forward to hearing from them when they return.

There are always a lot of interesting people at General Synod. Just one of them is Arn Chorn-Pond, who survived the horrors of the Khmer Rouge regime by playing revolutionary songs on the flute. Today, he is an internationally recognized human rights leader and speaker and the recipient of numerous awards, including the Anne Frank Memorial Award. He is also the subject of the Emmy-nominated documentary, *The Flute Player*.

In the 1990s, he returned to Cambodia to work on humanitarian programs. He found that some 90 percent of Cambodia's traditional artists had died during the years of the Khmer

Rouge and the years of famine that followed. Some had survived but could not revive their art. Arn knew if these few survivors died without passing on their knowledge, his country's musical heritage could disappear forever. So in 1996, he founded Cambodian Living Arts.

Synod will be streamed live at [www.ucc.org/synod/live.html](http://www.ucc.org/synod/live.html) and on Facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChrist

Newsletter Deadline  
Combined  
August/September Issue  
Wed., July 20, 2011

**Send items to: Mary Chapman,  
[mchapman15@cox.net](mailto:mchapman15@cox.net)**

## The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Senior Minister: **Rev. Randy Mayer**  
Coordinator of Christian Education: **Julie Ingham**  
Assistant to the Minister: **Noel Andersen**  
Music Director: **Scott Glysson**  
Pianist: **Kay Jean Moore**  
Custodian: **Severo Rivas**  
Administrator: **Amy Dillemath**  
Newsletter Editor: **Mary Chapman**

**Newsletter Helpers:**  
**Jan Bennett**  
**John & Ginny Fridlund**  
**Carlos Henriquez**  
**Bill & Marge Kinhead**  
**Beverly Myers**

**Your Council:**  
Moderator: **Connie Aglione**  
Moderator-Elect: **Jackie Smith**  
Council Secretary: **Drew Mason**  
Treasurer: **Bonnie Sondrol**

**Board Chairs/Co-Chairs:**  
Christian Education:  
**Angie Morris**  
Facilities:  
**Donn Bruskiwicz & Pete Hagen**  
Finance:  
**Steve Smith**  
Membership:  
**Bob Buehring**  
Mission/Outreach:  
**Susan Hill**  
Stewardship:  
**Hathaway Cornelius**  
Worship:  
**Phyllis Hallman**



## Give Electronically!

Did you know that The Good Shepherd offers the option to give electronically? Contact Amy in the church office for more details (520.625.1375 or [SeeYou@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org](mailto:SeeYou@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org)).

## A Message from Our Pastor...

Greetings,

The temperature is set to hit 110 degrees in Sahuarita/Green Valley today---so yes things are heating up here in the desert. Or as the old saying goes---“Welcome to Arizona where summer spends the winter and hell spends the summer.” The fires continue to burn throughout the state, fortunately the Santa Cruz Valley has escaped most of the harm this time, but our hearts break for the many places where devastation and destruction has taken place. This last Sunday, in the heart of the fire season we prayed a special prayer in worship, written by friend and colleague Rev. Talitha Arnold pastor at The United Church of Santa Fe (see Page 8). It is a good example of the type of prayer and relationship with God, Creation and Community we all should be striving and praying for.

With you on the Journey,  
Randy

## Theology on Tap



The theological conversation got so hot at El Charro's at our last Theology on Tap that we had to move inside where cooler heads could prevail. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Depending on the weather and the folks that gather---we will either be on the patio or in the back room. All are welcome.

## Fine-tuning of The Good Shepherd Membership Process

During the Long Range Planning process The Good Shepherd congregation and Long Range Planning committee had some good reflections and conversations on the Membership Process at The Good Shepherd. For the past couple of years we have received members into the church on the last Sunday of each month and have had UCC 101 class a couple times a year as well as an occasional New Member Dinners. While this process has worked o.k. there has been a desire by most everyone to be a little more intentional while offering multiple ways for folks to join The Good Shepherd as members.

With that in mind The Membership Board has recommended that we have New Member Sundays four times a year. Leading up to each New Member Sunday there would be one Inquirer's Class that interested folks could attend, in addition there would be opportunities for the pastor to visit with potential members. And of course we would continue having the New Member Dinners to bring new people together and learn about each other and the church. The point is to have multiple entry points where all types of people, schedules and ecclesiastical understandings can receive what they need as they make a decision to be a part of The Good Shepherd. If you have any questions, ideas or want to join The Good Shepherd, please be sure and talk with Rev. Mayer.



## Bookworms

**Bookworms**, the women's evening book discussion group will **not** meet in July as earlier planned. We will meet at 7 pm, **August 15**, at Martha Belle Fray's, 940 W. Quail Drive, and we will discuss to discuss **My Own Country**, by Abraham Verghese, the book we had been scheduled for July. We will not be reading **Body Surfing**, by Anita Shreve. For

more information contact Sandra Rooney, [srooney8@cox.net](mailto:srooney8@cox.net); 625-5962.



## Eye on Latin America Film Series

### "EL SISTEMA"

July 23rd at 4 pm  
at church

This uplifting and moving documentary about Venezuela's unique system of music education takes us from barrios of Caracas to the world's finest concert halls. It shows how Venezuelan visionary Jose Antonio Abreu has changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of children over the past three decades, through music education.

Children from streets dominated by the gun battles of gang warfare are taken into music schools, given access to music, taught the model of the symphony orchestra, and by extension how to build a better society. Come to have a look at the young Gustavo Dudamel, director of the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra. This animated and creative conductor is a graduate of El Sistema and continues to support the organization that made his career possible.

**Have you included The Good Shepherd Church in your will or estate plan?**

**You are invited to become a part of the Church Legacy Circle supporting the long-term mission of the church.**



## Youth in Mission

Although The Good Shepherd UCC tends to be a little slower in summer as people escape the hot summers, the Youth Program flourishes in its mission and solidarity opportunities. On June 12th, the high school youth put together a beautiful service reporting back on what they learned on the Urban Immersion trip in Los Angeles, Oakland and San Francisco.

Eight of our youth joined Jessica Lambertson (YAV) and myself for a rich and diverse set of experiences designed to engage youth with issues of oppression and poverty in the inner city, and in turn, the different types of faith responses from various urban ministries.

Together we served the hungry at Glide Memorial, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker and the St. Gregory Episcopal Church Food Bank. We worked at Oakland Habitat for Humanity and marched with hotel workers who were fighting for a better contract.

Perhaps the most impactful was the youth weekend retreat with City of Refuge UCC and Imani Community UCC, two churches with a predominately African-American and same-gender-loving couples. The worship was powerful and dynamic while the theology was focused on inspiring young people to embrace a spiritual journey where all can be accepted and uplifted. It was a transformational experience for all involved where cultural and faith exchange was nurtured and we were able to think about increasing our faith by stepping out of our comfort zones and thinking outside the box.

Thank you to the Congregations and Parents for supporting out youth in these mission endeavors! Following is a link to the video we made about our trip that was shown at the June 12th Youth Sunday, if you would like to see it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gz8BhJo-5bA>

Noel Andersen

## Sahuarita Food Bank Needs Your Help!

**Located at The Good Shepherd UCC**

The Sahuarita Food Bank needs your help. Please help keep the shelves full this summer. All canned goods are needed except peanut butter, any frozen meats, vegetables, rice, beans, etc. (expiration dates up to one year beyond for cans, 6 months beyond for packaged items are accepted)

We could really use

- pastas, pasta sauce,
- cereals,
- rice,
- canned vegetables, fruit, soups, & canned meats.
- Also, staples such as flour, sugar, and cooking oil are always welcome.

Thank you to all of you for helping to feed those in need in Sahuarita. Also, volunteers are always needed and much appreciated.

Any questions call Marilyn Hosea (777-4371) or Jackie Smith (256-5826).





## Christian Education

We had an amazing Vacation Bible School experience the first week of June! We had 26 kids and 25-30 adults who attended classes.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who made Shake It Up Café so successful. Starting with our ever resourceful set decorators – Wayne and Ginny Carlson and Jack and Karen Kressley. Set painters – Ginny Wing, Martha Belle Fray and Ally Frieders. Gail Chaffee who organized the kitchen set up and cleanup crew and the crew themselves – Paul Chaffee, Jan and Drew Mason, Steve and Marion Bell and Martha Belle Fray.

The opening and closing celebration members – Jessica Lambertson who played Chef Basil, Melanie Fox the famous Scraps the Raccoon, Betty Mulley the Hebrew storyteller, music leader Lara Harrison and Richard Mayer audio/visual. Station leaders – Irene York and Judy Van Es who as usual had the most decorated room and the best crafts ever! Brittany Stricklen who put together science experiments and games. Noel Andersen for the Reflection and Mission station. Cathy Sims who was the leader for the pre-schoolers.

Our adult class was led by Rowland Van Es and Ed Hunt who as usual put together interesting and challenging sessions. Our intrepid group leaders – Margie Brewer, Kelly Frieders and Randy Mayer and Jacob Mayer. Registration was handled by Angie Morris and Liz Wright. Photographs were taken by Glen Harrison. And finally our real chef was Nyisha Harrison. Also thanks to Pat Schwarzin who entertained young and old at Tuesday night dinner.

As you can see this is quite an undertaking which couldn't be done without the help of all these volunteers! Vacation Bible School is an opportunity for The Good Shepherd to have all ages gather together to learn our faith stories and to invite the wider community in for 4 evenings of truly

inter-generational fun.

Our focus scriptures for Sundays in the month of July are all from Genesis. July 3<sup>rd</sup> Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 – these passages continue the story of Abraham and Sarah and their son Isaac. Abraham sends a servant in search of a suitable wife for Isaac. The servant finds Rebekah and Rebekah's family gives her the choice in marrying Isaac. In a highly unusual action for that time period, Rebekah herself has chosen Isaac to be her husband.

God too has chosen her to be part of the divine covenant that God has made with Abraham. A great nation is in the making. July 10<sup>th</sup> Genesis 25:19-34 Isaac and Rebekah are childless, Isaac prays for a child and Rebekah becomes pregnant with twins. In a difficult pregnancy the unborn children struggling within her foretell the struggles between the brothers as they grow into manhood. Esau is the first born and Isaac's favorite, Jacob is Rebekah's favorite.

And of course in the chain of human events there is trouble between the brothers. They both end up leaving home and Esau's nation the Edomites and Jacob's nation the Hebrews struggle against each other for centuries.

July 17<sup>th</sup> Genesis 28:10-19a Jacob's dream about the ladder to heaven and even though Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing him God appears to Jacob in the dream and tells him that he is always with him. God extends hope and blessing to Jacob.

July 24<sup>th</sup> Genesis 29:15-28 Jacob intends to marry Rachel but ends up instead with her sister Leah. Jacob is deceived by his uncle Laban into marrying the oldest daughter first as tradition demands. He later marries Rachel as well. There is nothing like the book of Genesis. It not only grounds us in our earliest faith stories but presents human kind not much different than people today. What parallels can you see in life now as you read through the book of Genesis?

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [Julie@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org](mailto:Julie@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org) or call me 909-4561.

## EfM Education for Ministry

Are you interested in learning more about our faith stories and how your faith and beliefs are lived out every day in your life? Ask me about EfM. EfM is a new class that will be offered at The Good Shepherd starting in September. This class has become an amazing part of my faith journey in the two years I have been involved. EfM is a nine month class that gives you the opportunity to explore your adult faith starting with the Bible, then onto Church history and theological choices. Please contact me, Julie Ingham, [julie@thegoodshepherducc.org](mailto:julie@thegoodshepherducc.org) or 909-4561.



## Future Stephen Leaders Prepare for Training Stephen Series

This summer Rev. Judy Holcomb, Veronica Johnson and Connie Aglione will begin the process of bringing the lay caring ministry of the Stephen Series to The Good Shepherd. They will be traveling to Dallas (Judy and Connie) and Pittsburgh (Veronica) to take seven days of intensive training in the techniques of teaching others to do caring ministry.

In the fall they, along with Linda Redfield who has already completed the Stephen Leaders program, will begin a class for people from Good Shepherd, training them to be Stephen Ministers. These Stephen Ministers will provide one-to-one care for those in need. We eagerly look forward to the blessings the Stephen Series will bring our church.

## Summer office hours

As the temperatures rise and some folks return to their Northern dwellings, the pace of work in the church office shifts. As a result, **the office will temporarily be closed Mondays.** The regular Monday-Thursday schedule will resume August 15. Please call 625-1375, or email [SeeYou@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org](mailto:SeeYou@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org) with any questions.

*The Jug* in the narthex is a good place for your loose change. This money helps with our summer campers. (Dollar bills also accepted!)

## Green Valley-Sahuarita Community Food Bank

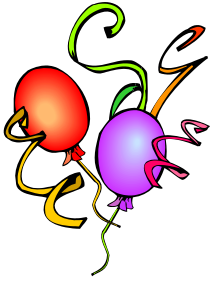
**Located at 250 E. Continental Rd. in Green Valley**

**BARE SHELVES!**

**COLD CEREAL AND CANNED FRUIT**

Especially needed for children's breakfasts

Donations can be dropped off between 7:00 am and 2:30 pm Monday through Friday. Please knock if front door is locked or take donations to the warehouse door and ring bell. Thank you!



Best Wishes  
for a  
Happy Birthday!

Randy Mayer	07/01
Jeanne Lindell	07/01
Frank Gery	07/01
Christie Furber	07/03
Trevor Caswell	07/03
Connor Caswell	07/03
Lainey Caswell	07/03
Donn Higley	07/03
Christian Griessel	07/06
Rick Herd	07/07
Marj Whitney	07/08
Pat Schwarzin	07/13
Bernie Kuehn	07/13
Carol Lewis	07/16
Aleta Brown	07/18
Bob Chamberlin	07/18
Carol Littlejohn	07/28
Yvonne Horton	07/29
Dick Mayer	07/30
Carlos Henriquez	07/31
Jerry Lewis	07/31

Synod Delegates  
to Deliberate Ecumenical  
Baptism Agreement

Culminating seven years of ecumenical dialog, delegates to the UCC's 28th General Synod in Tampa, Fla., will deliberate and potentially vote on a proposal recommending the "[Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism.](#)"

Forged between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church-USA, Reformed Church in America and Christian Reformed Church – the agreement is being hailed as a "milestone on the ecumenical journey," says Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta, chairman of the USCCB Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

The USCCB voted 204-11 last fall to approve the agreement. The Presbyterian Church-USA has also ratified the agreement. The Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church are scheduled to consider the agreement at their respective national gatherings this summer. UCC ecumenical partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has a long-standing common baptism agreement with the USCCB...



Congratulations  
on Your  
Wedding  
Anniversary

Chuck & Judy Tomhave	07/01
Paul & Patsy Larson	07/01
Marj & Chuck Whitney	07/10
Harvey & Ruth Holter	07/11
Ken & Rita Dolbeare	07/12
Dee & Pres Johnson	07/18
Sandy & Phil Yahn	07/22
Carolyn Wilson & Harlan Schanz	07/30

If you have not seen your special day (birthday/anniversary) in the newsletter, we may not have a complete record for you. Please contact Amy if you would like to provide this information.

# Prayers for All Creation in a Time of Fire and Drought

*By Reverend Talitha Arnold of The United Church of Santa Fe*

**Leader:** God of all creation, of rain and fire, of ponderosa and pinon, of desert and forest, we your people lift our prayers to you.

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** For rain in this thirsty land and for hope in this hard time,

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** For firefighters on the front lines, for pilots and support crews and all who are working night and day to contain devastating fires,

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** For the people of Arizona who have lost their homes, communities and livelihoods, for the White Mountain Apaches whose homeland for generations is now scorched and burned, for all persons who have been forced to evacuate or who are still in danger,

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** And for all the animals and birds who have also lost their homes to fire, for your plants and trees, rivers and lakes, and all creation that is suffering because of drought and fire and often because of human greed or human carelessness,

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** For farmers, ranchers, and the people of rural communities whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by drought; for landscapers, business people and day workers who may lose their jobs in this dry time.

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** For the just and wise use of the water you have given us, to be gracious stewards of your creation and good neighbors with all people,

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** For each of us the wisdom to conserve and the grace to share the natural resources you have given all of us.

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** For city councils and church councils, county commissions and tribal governments, state authorities and national leaders, to have your courage and your vision to make hard decisions for the common good.

**People:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**Leader:** Gracious God, you who hear every prayer of every heart, hear now the prayers of this people we lift to you. (You are invited to offer your own prayers. Please conclude with the words, "God in your mercy." The congregation then responds, "Hear our prayer.")

**Leader:** Hear all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Remind us that you are the One who listens and who hears.

**People:** **Help us to be a people who also listen and hear—to one another, to our brothers and sisters, to all creation. Give us the courage; grant us the wisdom to love one another and this earth as you do. We pray in your name, Amen.**

# Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

## Council Minutes May 24, 2011

Members present: Randy Mayer, Connie Aglione, Drew Mason, Jackie Smith, Steve Smith, Bob Buehring, Sandra Rooney, Julie Ingham.

Randy opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

**Pastor's Report:** Randy's wide-ranging report included an account of his attendance at the SW Conference Annual Meeting, his Stephen Ministry training in St Louis, progress of the Search Committee for an Asst. Minister and comments on the conclusion of a successful season of the Coffee House and Theology on Tap. He pointed out that several elder members had asked him to include the screens with music and messages every Sunday because it made it so much easier for them to read and follow the service. This has been an unanticipated benefit of the screens.

### Board/Committee Reports:

**Finance:** Steve reported that the three sources of income...pledged, non-pledged and plate...were all producing ahead of budget.

**Christian Ed:** Julie said she produced and distributed 3000 flyers advertising Shake It Up, the intergenerational Bible School. Recruiting and program development are on-going. She announced that the adult Forum schedule is established for the coming year.

**Worship:** Not reporting.

**Youth Program:** Noel and the youth are on the road in California.

**Missions:** Sandra attended the Council meeting but announced that her Board is not meeting this summer.

Randy mentioned that the UCC Church has a missionary in Nogales, Sonora.

**Membership:** Bob expressed a need for a

sign or graphic of some sort to direct visitors to the kiosk in the narthex. The Membership Board will explore options.

**Facilities:** No report

**Stewardship:** Connie said that Hathaway had offered the services of the Stewardship Board in the effort to raise money for new chairs.

Old Business:

The nominating Committee is appointed by the Council, and Connie announced that Jurine Schellberg and Donna Worland had agreed to fill two of the remaining positions.

The Council and Boards will host the summer Fellowship Hours. The schedule is complete, as follows:

June...Finance Bd and Exec Committee  
July...Christian Ed Board  
Aug....Membership Board  
Sep....Missions Board

New Business:

The ONA/Diversity Committee requested Council approval of a special collection for the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns. Only one quarter of UCC churches have gone through the educational process to become Open and Affirming congregations. After discussion it was agreed that a joint appeal, to be held in June, would be allowed with ONA splitting 50/50 with the Strengthen the Church appeal.

Nancy Ackley requested that The Good Shepherd support her as she seeks Commissioning for Financial Ministries status with the Southwest Conference of the UCC. Her request was supported unanimously and the Moderator informed the Conference of its decision.

The Moderator announced that the Boards and Council will not meet during the month of July.

Bob Buehring closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Drew Mason, Council Sec'y

## ***UCC in the Philippines file suit against human rights abuses...***

June 16, 2011

### ***Arroyo Had Command Responsibility of AFP, Impunity Must End!***

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) is committed to ending the culture and climate of impunity in the Philippines. To this end, today we file a legal suit against Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. While Arroyo was President and of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, numerous Church Pastors and Church leaders were either ...liquidated, harassed, unlawfully, detained or tortured with impunity, by military agents and operatives who, by law, were then all under the ultimate control and command responsibility of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Representing UCCP as General Secretary, Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza joins with six UCCP families as plaintiffs against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for damages to the Church and Co-Plaintiffs Human Rights Violations Victims. Gloria Arroyo and the military agents for whom she was responsible must be held accountable for the injustice they have exacted on the Church and the Filipino people.

The courageous persons that unites in this action represent:

- Joel Baclao, UCCP Coordinator of Disaster Relief Program “Andurog-Bicol” at the time he was extra-judicially killed on November 10, 2004
- Rev. Edison Lapuz, Conference Minister of the Northeastern Leyte Conference at the time he was extra-judicially killed on May 12, 2005.
- Pastor Andy Pawican, Licentiate Pastor assigned to UCCP congregation in Pantabangan at the time he was extra-judicially killed on May 21, 2006
- Rev. Raul Domingo, Deputy Conference Minister of Palawan Associate Conference at the time he was extra-judicially killed on August 20,

2005

- Noel “Noli” Capulong, Chair of UCCP’s Christian Witness and Service Program in Calamba at the time he was extra-judicially killed on May 27, 2006
- and representing himself, Pastor Berlin Guerrero, Licentiate Pastor of Northeast Southern Tagalog Conference, who was abducted, illegally detained and tortured on May 27, 2007.

From over one thousand documented Human Rights Violations under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, more than 18 persons killed extra-judicially, 1 person disappeared and believed killed, 3 persons ambushed and wounded, and at least 4 persons abducted, illegally detained and tortured from the UCCP.

As the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, we take action against the relentless persecution and brutalization of the Church, especially being labeled as “ENEMY OF THE STATE” through various counter-insurgency operation plans of the military establishment. This false and malicious tagging has unjustly permitted for UCCP persons to be “neutralized” in the name of so-called national security.

Not only has then President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Gloria Macapagal Arroyo not been prosecuted for the staggering number of extra-judicial killings and human rights violations under her command, but neither have any of the actual military perpetrators been brought to justice. We seek justice for the surviving families of UCCP ordained ministers, pastors, lay leaders and members who had been liquidated through extra-judicial killing as well as those who had been ambushed and wounded, harassed, tortured and illegally detained with impunity.

We covet the prayers and solidarity support of the Filipino people as we take this action to break the culture and climate of impunity in the Philippines and pursue justice for the victims of human rights violations.