

[OVT-011] Regarding a Korea Peace Treaty

Source: Presbytery
Committee: Unassigned

IOB Link: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000521>
Event: 224th General Assembly (2020)
Sponsor: Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery
Type: General Assembly Full Consideration

[OVT-011]

1. Recommendation
1. Rationale
2. Advocates (1)

Recommendation

Recommendation

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to do the following:

1. Affirm its commitment to work with the people of Korea and with the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), other church partners, ecumenical organizations, and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and around the world committed to seeking peace, justice, and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula.
2. Affirm the need for a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula that will replace the current armistice agreement dating from 1953.
3. Direct the Stated Clerk and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to work with our church partners in Korea, the United States, and around the world to advocate for a safe environment for a Korean-led process that will lead to a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula that establishes peace with justice where no party to this long-continued conflict feels they have to sacrifice civil liberties in the name of security and where refugees and asylum-seekers are treated with love and compassion.
4. Direct the Stated Clerk and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for nuclear disarmament on the Korean Peninsula by both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States.
5. Call Presbyterians to learn about the history of the conflict on the Korean Peninsula and the factors that get in the way of making peace on the peninsula today, including the role of the United States.
6. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency to identify print, video, audio, online, and other resources, and to encourage Presbyterians to use them to learn about the history of the conflict on the Korean Peninsula, the factors that get in the way of making peace on the peninsula, including the role of the United States, and opportunities for Presbyterians and other Christians in the United States to support efforts of the Korean people to make peace.

한국 평화 조약에 관하여 —Cayuga-Syracuse 노회에서

카유가-시라큐스 노회는 224차 총회(2020)에 다음과 같이 헌의합니다.

1. 한반도에서 평화, 정의, 화해를 추구하는 데 전념하는 한국인 및 예장통합(PCK), 한국기장(PROK), 기타 교회 파트너, 에큐메니칼 조직 및 미국과 세계의 비정부 기구와 함께 일하겠다는 약속을 확인합니다.
2. 1953년부터 체결된 휴전 협정을 대체할 한반도 평화 조약의 필요성을 확인합니다.
3. 정서기 및 총회 선교국이 한국, 미국 및 세계의 교회 파트너들과 협력하여 한국인이 주도하는 과정의 한반도 평화 조약으로 이어지도록 한다. 이는 오랫동안 지속된 분쟁의 당사자들이 안보의 이름으로 시민의 자유를 희생해야 한다고 느끼지 않고 난민과 망명자들을 위한 사랑과 동정심으로 정의와 평화를 이룩함에 있습니다
4. 정서기와 총회 선교국이 조선 민주주의 인민 공화국과 미국의 한반도 핵무장 해제를 옹호하도록 지시합니다.
5. 장로교인들에게 한반도 분쟁의 역사와 미국의 역할을 포함하여 오늘날 한반도 평화를 이룰 수 있는 요인들에 대해 알아봅니다.
6. 장로교 총회 선교국에 지시하여 인쇄, 비디오, 오디오, 온라인 및 기타 자료를 식별하고 장로교인들이 한반도 분쟁의 역사, 평화를 만드는 방식에 영향을 미치는 요인에 대해 배울 수 있도록 장려하고, 미국의 역할을 포함하여 미국의 장로교인들

Rationale

Seeking peace and pursuing it is our calling as followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. (Ps. 34:14, Rom. 14:19, Heb. 12:14, 1 Pet. 3:11). The Korean Peninsula is one of the many places in the world that are in critical need of peace.

Presbyterians in the United States have shared in ministry with the people of the Korean Peninsula since 1884. Currently we join in mission with Korea's Christian community, particularly our partners the Presbyterian Church of Korea and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, in higher education and youth ministries, theological education, health ministries, and women's and children's ministries. We also work with our partners, including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the World Council of Churches, and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, in ministries of peace education and reconciliation.

Japan occupied and ruled Korea for nearly thirty-six years, beginning in 1910. At the end of World War II, Allied forces liberated Korea on August 15, 1945. The Korean people rejoiced at regaining freedom. However, their joy was shattered when the U.S.A. and the USSR divided the country into two along the 38th parallel under the pretext of disarming the Japanese forces, without regard for the wishes of the Korean people. Soviet forces occupied the northern portion until 1948, and an American military government controlled the southern portion until 1948, with American forces withdrawn in 1949. This situation of division contributed to war on the Korean peninsula lasting between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953.

The Korean War has never officially ended. The Korean Armistice Agreement, signed on July 27, 1953, stopped the active military fighting on the peninsula. It established a Military Demarcation Line (MDL) near the 38th parallel and a Demilitarized Zone on either side of the MDL. The Armistice Agreement promised negotiations to establish a peace treaty formally ending the war, but Cold War

antagonisms prevented agreement, and negotiations were broken off after a few years. The Korean War still officially exists, nearly seventy years after the armistice.

The unended Korean War continues to impact those living on the Korean Peninsula and in diaspora. Millions of Korean families were separated as a result of the war and the armistice agreement that established the MDL. A limited number of Koreans have been able to visit family members across the MDL. Many Koreans have never seen family members who live on the other side of the line; many have died without ever seeing family members. Koreans in both countries live with suspicion, hostility, and recurring incidents of violence as a result of the unresolved state of conflict and extensive militarization of the peninsula.

United States military forces remain in the Republic of Korea and the Korean peninsula remains one of the most militarized places in the world. Military forces from the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) engage in annual exercises that rehearse invasion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Feeling threatened, the DPRK maintains a strong military, upgrades its weaponry, and makes threatening displays in response. The nuclear capabilities of both the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have escalated the tensions on the peninsula.

Despite the difficulties and complexity of the issues between them, the people of the Korean Peninsula, including the Christian communities, have worked for peace. Recent efforts by people and leaders of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have been made to nurture trust and open the possibility of concrete diplomatic negotiation toward establishing a permanent peace with justice. The U.S. opened a new diplomatic relationship with the DPRK in 2018, changing antagonistic and mutually threatening confrontation into a sudden and a friendly diplomatic relationship that had never happened before. The summit meetings between the leaders of the two countries in Singapore in 2018 and in Hanoi in 2019, along with a personal meeting between the two leaders later in 2019, offered hope that diplomatic negotiations could soon resolve the differences between the U.S. and the DPRK and finally conclude the Korean War with a Treaty of Peace.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has historically advocated for peace and reconciliation in the Korean peninsula. The 222nd General Assembly (2016) acted to "Request the U.S. government and the United Nations to secure a safe environment for the two Koreas to engage in dialogue and to develop a Korea-led process on healing, reconciliation, and peaceful reunification (*Minutes*, 2016, Part I, p. 951)." The 219th General Assembly (2010), approved a resolution strongly supporting "the replacement of the present armistice agreement with a just and lasting peace treaty between North and South Korea, brokered by the United Nations, and endorsed by the United States and other powers with interests in the region" (*Minutes*, 2010, Part I, p. 976). Representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Korea and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 17–19, 2013, and issued a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to partnership in efforts to build peace in the Korean peninsula: "We affirm our commitment to walk in humility, with open minds, prepared to change our ways fulfilling the ministry of reconciliation as we follow the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)." A peace delegation of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) leaders visited the Republic of Korea in response to the action of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) previously cited and an action of that same assembly that addressed the killing of Korean civilians by United States troops on July 26–29, 1950, near the village of No Gun Ri (*Minutes*, 2016, Part I, pp. 853–54).

In response to the "Statement on Peace and Reunification of Korea" adopted by the World Council of Churches at its 10th General Assembly (2013) in Busan, Republic of Korea, the National Council of Churches in Korea launched a global campaign for the signing of a peace treaty. The campaign delivered 13,000 signatures of United States citizens to President Obama on the 63rd anniversary of the armistice agreement. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the National Council of the Christian Churches in the USA, and other U.S. faith communities promoted this campaign.

A peace treaty is needed that does justice to all parties to this historic conflict, which continues to generate hatred, violence, poverty, hunger, and human suffering. Officially ending the war would help ensure the security of the Korean peninsula and the stability of the region.

Presbyterians have long prayed for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Advocating for a peace treaty, guided by our partners in Korea, PC(USA) members will help bring the answer to those prayers for peace there and around the world.

Advocates

Linda Russell

Organization: Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery

Email: lsruss@aol.com

Phone: [none provided]

Phone(alt): [none provided]

Other Info: [none provided]