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October 30, 2024

Mons. Rodrigo Aguilar Martínez, Obispo
Diocese of San Cristóbal de las Casas
5 de febrero y 20 de noviembre #1
San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México

Dear Bishop Aguilar:

It is with great concern that we write to you upon receiving the news of the assassination of Father Marcelo Pérez Pérez a week ago Sunday. As you may know, our collaboration with the Diocese through Global Ministries has been long and fruitful, working together for justice and peace and supporting the Church's bold and faithful witness. We are profoundly grieved along with you and the faithful people of Chiapas at the loss of a dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed priest whose ministry sought to build the realm of God and lift the suffering.

We are aware that this horrible act arises from a complex context whereby local, national, and international powers violate basic human rights and seek to silence the voices of dignity and peace. We stand in solidarity with the Diocese and the community of faith in Chiapas, who invite us to heed Christ's call and join together in the hard work of cultivating hope and putting faith into action. Our commitment to justice and peace remains unwavering.

We recognize that it is our responsibility to advocate for just policies in the United States and internationally, which are urgently needed to bring about a peaceful change in Chiapas and along Mexico's southern border. We ask you for your prayers that we may also be of good courage as we seek the transformation of our own country. Please know that we hold you in our steadfast prayers, and we draw strength from your support.

May God comfort you in this time of sorrow and grief, and grant courage for the living of these days.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. LaMarco Antonio Cable
Co-Executive Global Ministries
President, Disciples Overseas Ministries

Rev. Shari Prestemon
Co-Executive Global Ministries
Associate General Minister, UCC

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