



June 14, 2016

To: **PC(USA)**  
**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**United Church of Christ**

*"My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word" (Psalm 119:28).*

Dear friends and partners,

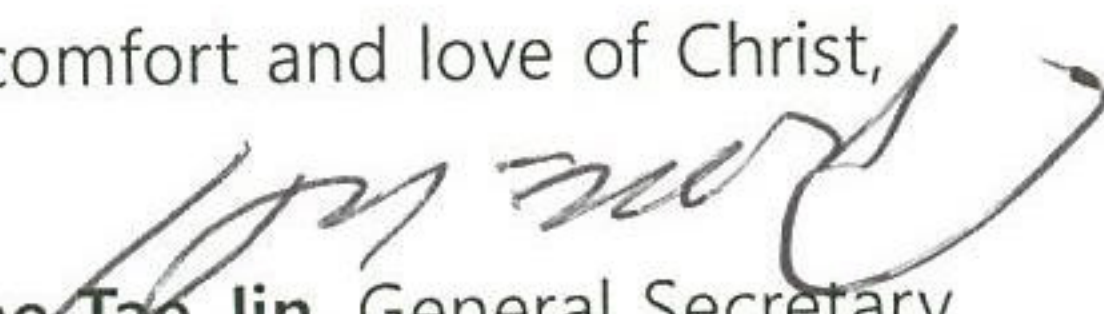
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea is much saddened to hear of the senseless and dreadful loss of life that happened at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, early Sunday morning. We grieve for those who were killed and those whose lives are shattered by the deaths, as well as those who are struggling to survive even now and will have to suffer the guilt of survival from such a trauma. We also grieve the blind anger that led one man to take the lives of so many others, we grieve the intolerance and hatred that gives vent to such violent action, and we seek to support you, our Christian partners in the U.S.A., as you once more call for gun control which would not allow the irresponsible purchase of such destructive weapons.

On Saturday, the Gay Pride parade was held in Seoul. People marched in solidarity with sexual minorities who still seek consistent and basic human rights in the Korean society. As they marched, they were confronted by the anger of people who protested acceptance of sexual diversity. We are so saddened by this verbal violence, which is such an affront to our understanding of the gospel that calls us to 'love one another, for love is of God.' (I John 4:7). "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar" (I John 4:20), and yet hatred spews from those who stand under a cross as they shout.

So our grief stemming from these words of violence and hatred were multiplied as we heard about the Orlando shooting, and we pray for the day when all people know security and peace in their lives. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." (I John 4:18)

Please receive our prayers and the comfort of our solidarity as you, brothers and sisters in our partner churches minister in the face of this tragic circumstance.

In the comfort and love of Christ,

  
**Rev. Bae Tae Jin**, General Secretary

The Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea