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April 7, 2020

Donald J. Trump, President
United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Greetings from Global Ministries, a common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and the United Church of Christ.

Global Ministries has been engaged in a relationship of solidarity and accompaniment with the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela for more than 60 years. As such, we have walked alongside Venezuelans throughout various moments in the history of the nation. This past October, we, as leaders of our two denominations, visited Venezuela and saw firsthand the economic hardship caused by economic sanctions.

The people in the U.S. and Venezuela are focused on investing time, attention, and resources to protect their loved ones from COVID-19. We, and our partner in Venezuela, were deeply concerned by the announcement that U.S. Navy ships would be deployed to Venezuela. As we have already stated in previous communications to you on this topic, we are deeply convinced that any U.S. military intervention in Venezuela would exacerbate the current crisis, and this is only amplified in this time of global pandemic.

We strongly urge you to refrain from any military intervention in Venezuela and to heed the call for a global ceasefire from the United Nations Secretary-General, Dr. Antonio Guterres, who said: *"It is time to put the armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives."*

As people of God, we cherish the integrity of every human being and ask you to commit to a peaceful solution to this situation seriously. We pray that the U.S. will not escalate this situation with Venezuela militarily. We call for an end to economic sanctions, which disproportionately harm those who are already suffering most, and that may be most vulnerable to COVID-19. This is the moment to follow a path of sensibility, respect, dialogue, and reconciliation.

May God guide you with wisdom and discernment both for the people of Venezuela and for all of God's creation.

Yours, in Christ,



Rev. Teresa Hord Owens
General Minister and President
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