



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

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A BREATH OF PEACE IN THESE TRYING TIMES

UCCP welcomes ceasefire between GRP and NDFP

*"My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."*

Isaiah 32:18

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) joins the wider ecumenical movement, through the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP), in hailing the separate declarations of unilateral ceasefire of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, as the nation faces a common enemy in the COVID-19.

Even as the peace talks are currently stalled, goodwill from the conflicting parties brings a welcome relief in our conflict-ridden land. The declaration of unilateral ceasefire augurs well in providing an atmosphere where unhampered and hopefully rapid delivery of the much needed medical services are provided.

We appeal to both parties to take this one more step further, that is, to develop a common framework and mechanism that will prevent spoilers from causing disruption of this ceasefire.


We hope and pray that both sides begin to seriously consider anew the resumption of peace talks after this crisis is over. As the UCCP Statement "Peacemaking: Our Ministry" asserts – "Real peace happens when the roots of conflicts and violence are removed, when a just social structure is built, and when human rights and dignity are held sacred." "Genuine peace can be attained only when founded on justice."

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March 30, 2020




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General Secretary




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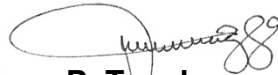
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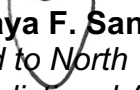
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