

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

Presbyterian Church (USA), Resolution on the International Criminal Court (H), 211th General Assembly, June 1999.

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACWSP) recommends that the 211th General Assembly (1999) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) do the following:

1. Commend the United Nations and the International Conference in Rome for the drafting and adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
2. Affirm the need for international judicial mechanisms for the administration of justice capable of addressing major categories of crime with consistent application for all countries.
3. Call upon all governments to be diligent in the conduct of affairs, preventing those acts that might constitute offenses of international character as defined by law, holding their own citizens accountable.
4. Call upon the United States administration to provide international leadership by signing the treaty, submitting it to the Senate for ratification, and supporting the creation of the International Criminal Court.
5. Call upon the United States Senate for prompt consideration and ratification of the treaty.
6. Encourage Presbyterians to learn about the International Criminal Court and the necessity for its creation, and to support the participation of the United States in the International Criminal Court.
7. Request that the appropriate offices of the General Assembly make available information for study.
8. Direct the Stated Clerk to communicate this resolution and its background information to the secretary general of the United Nations, the president of the United States, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, and every member of the United States Senate.

Excerpt from attached rationale: "The Rome treaty holds the promise of helping to establish international mechanisms for the administration of justice for those crimes long acknowledged to be contrary to the interests of peace and justice. The necessity to adequately address issues involving international justice in its multiple aspects – punishment for perpetrators of international crimes, the restorative needs of victims, and the redemptive actions necessary for the rebuilding of community – remains one of the unresolved challenges of the world community."