

P 808 DAY PRAYER AND FASTING FOR CONTEMPORARY MARTYRS

(Adopted 06/13/2015)

Call for a WPAUMC conference wide day of prayer and fasting on February 15, 2016 in memory of 21 Coptic Christians martyred by the Islamic state in Iraq and ah-sham commonly referred to as ISIS.

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that each and every human being is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27); WHEREAS, The Book of Resolutions, 6129 Article II states "We are unalterably opposed to those who instill hate in one group for another. Governments or political factions must not use religious, class, racial or other differences as the means to achieve heinous political purposes;"

WHEREAS, The Book of Resolutions, 6147 states that "torture is a crime ... evil deeds must stop;"

WHEREAS, The Book of Resolutions, 6145 states that "We call on The United Methodist Church to condemn all forms of rape as incompatible with the church's understanding of the sacredness of life, and to affirm the right of all persons to safety, nurture, and care;"

WHEREAS, the Islamic state in Iraq and ah-sham commonly referred to as ISIS continually instills hate in a group of people for Christians, "The people of the cross", and other minorities;

WHEREAS, ISIS has committed unspeakable crimes against humanity of which burning humans alive, beheading in an inhuman manner, by kidnapping, by execution by means of shooting, by raping and imposing forced marriage, forms only a short list of the actual crimes made public;

WHEREAS, ISIS has forcibly removed populations from their homes, displaced these persons from their country, has looted these same persons even of drugs and items needed for survival with no regard to their safety, nurture and care based only on religious convictions of the minorities;

WHEREAS, ISIS has murdered 21 Coptic Christians based only on their Christian religious beliefs, verified on a video released on February 15, 2015.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2015 session of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church call for a day of prayer and fasting in our conference on February 15, 2016, the anniversary of the day the video was released of the 21 Copts being martyred, in remembrance of today's Christian martyrs (and of all victims of terrorism), and to ask God to move in the heart of terrorists in the Middle East and worldwide in order to lead them to salvation and forgiveness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as salvation and forgiveness lead to transformation; and prayer leads to action; the DCM will consult with representatives from the Connectional Outreach Ministries team and the Connectional Witness Ministries team in order to supply a list of resources available by request to churches that desire to add learning and understanding to this day of prayer.

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