

## **An Open Letter to President Barack Obama**

Dear President Obama,

We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

We, Bishops of The United Methodist Church, whose names appear below, are deeply concerned about the escalating war in Afghanistan.

We call upon you to set a timetable for the withdrawal of all coalition forces by the end of 2010

The war has now lasted over 7 years, and there is no end in sight. During that time, 911 members of the US military and 591 coalition forces have been killed. October was the deadliest month since the war began. Tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed in the war.

The position of The United Methodist Church is that "war is incompatible with the teachings of Christ." Our vision is a world in which people live together in peace and with mutual respect. Our Church, the third largest religious denomination in the United States, has 11 million members with 40,000 local congregations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States.

We pray that you will take our concerns seriously. Several years ago, more than 120 Bishops issued a "Statement of Repentance" for our failure to speak out early against the war in Iraq. We do not want to make that mistake again of remaining silent in the face of another widening war.

We believe there is no path to military victory in Afghanistan. We believe that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities.

We know that issues you face are difficult and complex. We pledge to uphold you with our prayers as you seek a just and peaceful resolution to the tragic war in Afghanistan.

God bless you.

Respectfully,

Christian Alsted, Copenhagen, Denmark

Edsel Ammons, Evanston, Illinois

Daniel C. Arichea, Jr., Paranaque City, Philippines

Thomas J. Bickerton, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania

Bruce P. Blake, Winfield, Kansas

W. Earl Bledsoe, Plano, Texas  
Heinrich Bolleter, Oberentfelden, Switzerland  
Warner H. Brown, Jr., West Sacramento, California  
Monk Bryan, Dallas, Texas  
Minerva G. Carcaño, Scottsdale, Arizona  
Kenneth Carder, Durham, North Carolina  
Ray W. Chamberlain, Winchester, Virginia  
Judith Craig, Powell, Ohio  
Emilio J.M. de Carvalho, Luanda, Angola  
Sudarshana Devadhar, Eatontown, New Jersey  
Sally Dyck, Eden Prairie, Minnesota  
R. Kern Eutsler, Mechanicsville, Virginia  
Violet Fisher, Wilmington, Delaware  
Elias G. Galvan, Scottsdale, Arizona  
William Boyd Grove, Charleston, West Virginia  
Grant Hagiya, Normandy Park, Washington  
John Wesley Hardt, Dallas, Texas  
Susan W. Hassinger, Schenectady, New York  
J. Woodrow Hearn, Galveston, Texas  
Kenneth W. Hicks, Little Rock, Arkansas  
Robert T. Hoshibata, Portland, Oregon  
John G. Innis, Monrovia, Liberia  
Neil L. Irons, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania  
S. Clifton Ives, Portland, Maine  
Alfred Johnson, Matawan, New Jersey  
Peggy A. Johnson, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania  
Charles W. Jordan, Upland, California  
Rodolfo A. Juan, Baguio City, Philippines  
Hee-Soo Jung, Chicago, Illinois  
Charlene P. Kammerer, Richmond, Virginia  
Kainda Katembo, Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Deborah L. Kiesey, Mitchell, South Dakota  
Walter Klaiber, Tuebingen, Germany  
James Lloyd Knox, Gadsden, Alabama  
Linda Lee, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin  
Ernest S. Lyght, Charleston, West Virginia  
Joao Somane Machado, Maputo, Mozambique  
Marcus Matthews, Baldwinsville, New York  
Felton E. May, Riverdale, New York  
J. Lawrence McCleskey, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina  
Calvin D. McConnell, Portland, Oregon  
Marshall L. Meadors, Jr., Anderson, South Carolina  
Jane Allen Middleton, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania  
William W. Morris, Gallatin, Tennessee  
Susan M. Morrison, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware  
Albert F. Mutti, Kansas City, Missouri

Abel T. Muzorewa, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Alfred L. Norris, Jonesboro, Georgia  
William B. Oden, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Donald A. Ott, Pewaukee, Wisconsin  
Bruce R. Ough, Worthington, Ohio  
Gregory Vaughn Palmer, Springfield, Illinois  
Jeremiah J. Park, New Rochelle, New York  
Sharon Z. Rader, Chicago, Illinois  
Beverly Shamana, Los Angeles, California  
Ann B. Sherer-Simpson, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Leo A. Soriano, Davao City, Philippines  
C. Joseph Sprague, Columbus, Ohio  
Elaine W. Stanovsky, Denver, Colorado  
Forrest C. Stith, Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
Melvin G. Talbert, Brentwood, Tennessee  
Lito C. Tangonan, Manila, Philippines  
Mary Virginia Taylor, Columbia, South Carolina  
Solito K. Toquero, Cavite, Philippines  
Jack M. Tuell, Des Moines, Washington  
Hans Växby, Moscow, Russia  
Hope Morgan Ward, Jackson, Mississippi  
Peter D. Weaver, Reading, Massachusetts  
Timothy W. Whitaker, Lakeland, Florida  
D. Max Whitfield, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
William H. Willimon, Birmingham, Alabama  
Joe A. Wilson, Georgetown, Texas  
Rosemarie Wenner, Frankfurt, Germany  
Joseph H. Yeakel, Smithsburg, Maryland