

Comment from the General-Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency, The Presbyterian Church in Canada Re: KAIROS

The Moderator of the 136th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (June 2010) wrote to the Prime Minister in support of KAIROS/Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives' program proposal that is currently being considered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Commissioners of the 136th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada overwhelmingly supported a motion stating General Assembly's disappointment with the decision not to fund KAIROS' initial 2009-2013 proposal and the manner in which the decision was made. The decision did not seem to be based on the merits of the proposal.

KAIROS (and its predecessor ecumenical agencies), has a long history of working in partnership with CIDA in support of organizations in the Global South.

The work that KAIROS' partners carry out in the Global South reflects the stated priorities of the Government of Canada in the areas of safeguarding food and water, in seeking to support the health and education of children and youth, in protecting and advancing human rights, in ensuring just and sustainable development in nations and communities whose pursuit of peace, order, and good government is seriously impaired.

KAIROS contributes to public policy issues that affect Canada and that have a bearing on Canada's role in the world. The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes that faith bodies have a responsibility to shine a light on the experiences of vulnerable human beings whose rights are being violated. Participation in the public policy process is an essential dimension of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's understanding and practice of mission.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada hopes that KAIROS' new proposal will be given fair and transparent consideration. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a founding member of KAIROS.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Fee,
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada