

“The Charter For Compassion”
An Overture to the National Capital Presbytery
From the Session of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
December 1, 2009

Whereas “In daily life, Jesus took ordinary acts of human compassion—healing the sick, feeding the hungry, washing feet—and translated them into ways of serving God.” (Book of Order W-1.2004)

Whereas “God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to exercise compassion in the world (feeding the hungry, comforting the grieving, caring for the sick, visiting the prisoners, freeing the captives, sheltering the homeless, befriending the lonely).” (Book of Order W-7.3000) And “Concern for the world may be enacted in prayer and ministries of compassion, justice, peacemaking, and witness.” (Book of Order W-3.5302)

Whereas “Discipleship may be expressed beyond the church cooperating with all who work for compassion and reconciliation.” (Book of Order W-4.3002d)

Whereas 150,000 people of the Abrahamic faiths and beyond, from over 180 countries, contributed to the Charter for Compassion.

Whereas the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington dedicated its 30th anniversary interfaith concert to the Charter for Compassion, and the National Council of Churches USA has endorsed the Charter,

Whereas the Session of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church has endorsed, affirmed and joined this global movement with the Charter for Compassion.

The Session of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church asks that the

1. The National Capital Presbytery endorse the Charter for Compassion
2. The National Capital Presbytery encourage its churches and members to
 - a. Teach and learn about compassion;
 - b. Engage in creative acts of compassion;
 - c. Sign the Charter for Compassion online
www.charterofcompassion.org.
3. The National Capital Presbytery petition the General Assembly of the PCUSA to endorse the Charter of Compassion and communicate that support to all congregations in the PCUSA