

TPPC Peacemaking Group Proposal  
Responding to Letter from PCUSA Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase Dated October 12, 2005  
Regarding the *Call to Say No to Torture* Campaign

The letter from the Moderator, co-signed by Ed Brogan, Director of Presbyterian Council for Chaplains, asks for all PCUSA congregations who have signed the Commitment to Peacemaking to commit to study, prayer, dialogue and taking a public stand to ensure humane treatment for all prisoners held by the United States and our allies. The Call to Say No to Torture, which had its start at the Peacemaking Conference at Ghost Ranch this past summer, can be read at <http://no2torture.org/> and the letter to Peacemaking congregations can be read at <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/torturestatement.htm>.

The TPPC Peacemaking Group recommends to the Session that we:

1. Endorse the Call.
2. Download the Presbyterian 'Say No to Torture' curriculum and study it in January during the Sunday School hour, including at least one week when the adult and confirmation class join together for joint study and discussion. Urge the class to conclude by making any further recommendations in addition to those listed below for consideration by TPPC and the Session. Dennis Huffman has agreed to provide leadership for the class.
3. Have the pastor discuss the Call and announce the class from the pulpit several times during December and early January, encouraging members and friends of the congregation to attend.
4. Consider using the new School of the Americas videotape as part of the study.
5. Following the conclusion of the class, have a Sunday worship service in mid to late January centered on the Call, the issue, with a time for mourning the evils that have occurred.
6. Send an invitation to the Ufford-Chase and/or Brogan to see if they might come and preach on that Sunday. If their schedule does not allow, explore possibility of inviting another guest preacher, perhaps Elenora Ivory from the PCUSA Washington Office.
7. Consider sending a TPPC representative, if someone is interested and available, to attend the Say No To Torture Epiphany campaign gathering in Miami, Florida on January 6 and 7.
8. Open the sanctuary for a prayer vigil to stop torture and end the war at a set time on a regular, advertised basis for the coming months. Advertise both in Church Life, the website, Takoma Voice and other appropriate venues.