



PRESS RELEASE

July 11, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Reaffirms Opposition to the Private Prison Industry

On Friday, July 6, 2012, the 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted to affirm the denomination's 2003 statement opposing private prisons, by discouraging future investment in the private prison industry through examination of corporate practices and congregational outreach and education. The resolution, from Hudson River Presbytery, "encourage(s) the General Assembly Mission Council to prevent future investment and, as it deems appropriate, encourage individual Presbyterians and congregations to divest of holdings in the said companies."

Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network liaison Gail Tyree praised the decision, saying "This just shows that Presbyterians can be counted on to do the right thing, once they have the information they need. It is gratifying to see the Church's 2003 statement strengthened to encourage individuals to divest from private prison corporations."

The Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network is a ministry of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA). PHEWA itself is a ministry of the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry area of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and was established in 1956 to interpret and implement denominational mandates. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has 2 million members nationwide.

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