



Pacific Conference of Churches

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Pacific Church Leaders Meeting

MOANA CALLS FOR ACTION

Preamble

At the occasion of the Pacific Church Leaders Meeting representing the *Anglican Church of Melanesia, Anglican Diocese of Polynesia, Catholic Bishops in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Churches of Christ Vanuatu, Congregational Christian Church in Samoa, Cook Islands Christian Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea, Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue, Evangelical Church in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands, Fiji Council of Churches, United Church in Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea Council of Churches, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Samoa National Council of Churches, Etaretia Porotetani Maohi, Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Kiribati Uniting Church, Nauru Congregational Church and the Methodist Church of Samoa* held in Auckland, New Zealand from the 1st- 3rd of August 2017, we the Pacific church leaders through our discernment of God's will in our troubled waters and the inspiration of the Moana make the following calls for action.

- 1. Self Determination:** We continue to support the Pacific island countries call for the United Nations investigation on Indonesia's Human Rights abusers in West Papua. God created us to be free and self- determining and in that regard we further support the call for West Papua's self-determination. "No one is free until we are all free." ¹

We continue to support any new initiative for a mutual political settlement for Bougainville self-determination between the Papua New Guinea government and the autonomous Bougainville government. We will support efforts of the Bougainville and Papua New Guinea churches to assist their governments with the peaceful political settlement of Bougainville self-determination and Bougainville's referendum result in 2019.

We support the continued struggle of the people of Kanaky (New Caledonia) in their pursuit of self- determination and the freedom to determine their political future. We recognize the legality of the Noumea Accord and call upon its signatories to abide by the spirit of this legal and binding document and to proceed with the referendum planned for 2018. We plead with France to use its power and influence to ensure that the referendum is carried out justly and in an atmosphere of peace and security in which all people may express their true will for the future of Kanaky.

¹ Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

2. **Seabed Mining:** We support the uncompromising call of the Papua New Guinea churches to BAN the mining of the seabed. Creation is God's gift to us and we are to be its stewards in our usage and conservations. Further, there should be Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) by Pacific people before their governments grant exploration and mining licenses.
3. **Pacific Diaspora:** We call on the churches who have congregations in Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific island countries to coordinate their programs and forums whereby these communities are affirmed of their identities. We further call on our churches to coordinate their programs on identity and faith for the youth in the diaspora.
4. **Leadership in the Church:** We encourage the churches to promote the leadership of women and youth in positions of leadership, in view of the fact that men, women and youth are endowed and gifted by God to lead. We also call on churches, states, civil societies and law enforcement agencies to defend and protect the rights of women and children by introducing zero tolerance initiatives at national and organizational levels.
5. **Church- State Relations:** We recognize that at times the church needs to work together with the state to take up the development needs of the people and at times the church needs to engage with the state on moral issues of the day. We whatever form of engagement with the state, the church must and always maintain its integrity and prophetic role.
6. **Influx of New Religious Movements:** We recognize the Freedom of Religion because each one of us is gifted with the Freedom of Choice and the same time we affirm that God calls us into a community where there is peace, justice and care for creation. In this regard we encourage the churches to have dialogue with the new religious groups that have come up among them sharing their faith and tradition. Further we are concerned by the divisions these new groups have caused in our communities and families and divisions that have sprung up among the churches. We therefore call for greater respect and for government policies on new religious groups.
7. **PCC Membership Fees:** We acknowledge our responsibility to PCC as owners to maintain and sustain its work and as the forum in which we collaborate and cooperate on faith and ecumenical matters. We therefore agreed to pay our membership fees, even those of us who owe fees for the past 3 years, by December 2017.

Anglican Church of Melanesia

Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu

Samoa National Council of Churches

Anglican Diocese of Polynesia

Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue

Etaretia Porotetani Maohi,

Catholic Bishops in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

Evangelical Church in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands

Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma

Churches of Christ Vanuatu

Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

Kiribati Uniting Church,

Congregational Christian Church in Samoa

Fiji Council of Churches

Nauru Congregational Church

Cook Islands Christian Church

United Church in Papua New Guinea

Methodist Church of Samoa

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea Council of Churches

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Fiji

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

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