

**An Overture to North Puget Sound Presbytery, Sept 26th, 2009
by North Creek Presbyterian Church**

Whereas, the PC USA Book of Order states that “The biblical vision of doing justice calls for ...redressing wrongs against individuals, groups and peoples in the church, in this nation and in the whole world*,” , and, “Whenever there is brokenness, violence and injustice the people of God are called to peacemaking†.”, and;

Whereas, in 2008, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA agreed to support the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000), vowed to begin gathering data on human trafficking initiatives, and agreed to partner with ecumenical and interfaith entities to build coalitions against trafficking‡, and;

Whereas, the institutions of slavery and human trafficking now rival the arms and drug trades as the largest criminal activity in the world, with 27 million people currently living in cruel servitude worldwide, 200,000 of those right here in the USA § and;

Whereas, most of the trafficked victims represent the poorest and most vulnerable of the world’s population, women, and children, forced primarily into sexual slavery of the worst kind, and that God clearly commands us to do everything in our power to fight this sort of injustice**, and;

Whereas, individually, Christians and church bodies can only scratch the surface of this monumental evil, and;

Whereas, there already exists a coalition of Christ-centered churches, joined together to fight human trafficking and provide freedom, safety, support and most of all, Christ’s love to liberated victims, called the Underground Church Network, an initiative of the globally recognized Not For Sale Campaign (see attachment), and;

Whereas, the session of North Creek Presbyterian church voted (July 28, 2009) to declare Sunday, February 21, 2010 as Freedom Sunday, (a day set aside by the Underground Church Network), in order to honor the victims of slavery, educate the congregation and set our feet on the path of action;

Therefore, the session of North Creek Presbyterian Church overtures the North Puget Sound Presbytery to demonstrate its solidarity in opposing slavery by;
a. declaring February 21, 2010 as Freedom Sunday, and,
b. seeking full participation of its congregations in the global Freedom Sunday event.

* W-7.4002 (h)

† W-7.4003

‡ Item REC-002 *A Resolution to Expand the Church’s Ministry with and Advocacy Against Human Trafficking* from the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns 2008

§ *The Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking* (US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families) www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

** *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?* Isaiah 58:6