



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

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09 June 2025

UCCP GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICERS 2022-2026

Mr. Jessie D. Garcia
Chairperson

Ms. Amelita Lumayag-Jaim
Vice Chairperson

Bishop Melzar D. Labuntog
General Secretary

Mr. Mark Jetro M. Cababan
National Treasurer

Ms. Kimberly dela Torre Pavino
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JURISDICTIONAL AREA BISHOPS

Bishop Joseph G. Agpaoa
North Luzon Jurisdiction

Bishop Victor L. Paller
South Luzon Jurisdiction

Bishop Francisco S. Aviso, Jr.
Middle Luzon Jurisdiction

Bishop Felician P. Tenchavez
West Visayas Jurisdiction

Bishop Jerby S. Salor
East Visayas Jurisdiction

Bishop Ligaya F. San Francisco
*North West Mindanao
Jurisdiction*

Bishop Daniel R. Palicte
*South East Mindanao
Jurisdiction*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Malacañang Complex

J.P. Laurel Street, San Miguel,
1005 Manila City

Your Excellency, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who proclaims good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, and justice to the oppressed.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) has been actively involved in the campaign to free Mary Jane Veloso by issuing solidarity statements, in addition to mobilizing its congregations to raise awareness, pray, and sign petitions. Two UCCP Bishops joined delegations that visited Mary Jane in Indonesia. In partnership with our missionary heritage church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), their church leadership and membership also expressed solidarity through letters to past Philippine Presidents, prayers and signature campaigns. Together we frame Veloso's case as a gospel call to proclaim liberty and seek justice for the oppressed.

Therefore, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and the Presbyterian Church (USA), speak as one voice – calling for the immediate and absolute pardon of Mary Jane Veloso, a survivor of human trafficking who has endured 15 years of unjust imprisonment.

The records and circumstances attest that Mary Jane was deceived into unknowingly becoming a drug mule in 2010. She was trafficked under the false promise of employment, exploited, convicted, and imprisoned. In 2024, after international advocacy and with your government's diplomatic efforts, she was allowed to return to the Philippines – a long-awaited step toward justice. But let us be clear: she is still not free.



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Now imprisoned in her own homeland, Mary Jane remains behind bars – even after the Indonesian government has left her fate to Philippine authorities, including the responsibility of granting her clemency. Her traffickers have been convicted in a similar case even while she is poised to testify soon against them.

We ask, how much longer must she suffer before mercy and justice meet in her name?

Mary Jane has suffered long enough. Justice delayed is justice denied. We, as people of faith, cannot be silent, while one of God's daughters remains imprisoned after surviving exploitation. Her chains must fall – not in theory, but in truth.

Let her live freely. Let her heal with dignity. Let Mary Jane Veloso go free.

In faith and action,

Bishop Joseph G. Agpaoa
Acting General Secretary
United Church of Christ in the Philippines

Rev. Jihyun Oh
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Executive Director, Interim Unified Agency,
Presbyterian Church (USA)