



Resolution to Ban Capital Punishment

WHEREAS, the Bible teaches that every human life has a sacred value (Genesis 1:27) and forbids the taking of innocent human life (Exodus 20:13); and

WHEREAS, all people, including those guilty of capital crimes, are created in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and love (Genesis 1:27); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.” (John 13:34); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:14); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, “But I say to you, love your enemies.” (Matthew 5:4); and

WHEREAS, God’s instructions require a civil magistrate to judge all people equally under the law, regardless of class or status (Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 1:17); and

WHEREAS, we recognize that fallen human nature has made impossible a perfect judicial system; and

WHEREAS, we understand that the financial cost of executing is much greater than the financial cost of life without parole; and

WHEREAS, God requires absolute proof of guilt before punishment is administered (Deuteronomy 19:15-19); and

WHEREAS, statistically speaking, capital punishment is not a deterrent for murder (the murder rates in states without capital punishment are lower than those states with capital punishment); and

WHEREAS, the criteria for court-appointed lawyers does not ensure that a defendant will get a qualified criminal attorney;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that because of our deep reverence for human life, our profound respect for the rights of individuals, and our deep love for God, we call for vigilance, justice, mercy and equity in our criminal justice system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge that capital punishment be immediately eradicated from our legal system and replaced with life without parole.

A quorum majority of the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions voted concurrence with this Resolution.