

The Taiwan Ecumenical Forum

April 16 – 18, 2026

Changhua, Taiwan

“The Right to Self-Determination and the Missionary Role of the Church in the Geopolitical Context of Taiwan”

### **Communique**

***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4: 18-19)***

The Taiwan Ecumenical Forum, at the invitation of The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), met in the midst of the turmoil, suffering, destruction, death and oppression of a world order under the sway of hegemonic Empires competing for territory on land and sea, resources, wealth and power through war, economic coercion and political aggression. The whole oikumene - all peoples and creation itself - are groaning under the weight of violence and exploitation as there is an unmasking of the brutal reality of global power relationships and the rules of international law no longer seem to apply.

The Forum engaged through the eyes of faith, in a deep spiritual and theological reflection on the mission of the Church in the present geopolitical situation, particularly in relation to the threats to the freedom of the peoples of Taiwan within a global perspective.

The Forum foregrounded a Gospel-centered vision of people’s security, shifting away from notions of national security based primarily on military defense. Instead, they emphasized solidarity among the peoples and with creation — both crucified by injustice — focusing on people’s freedom, identity, agency and autonomy through seeking peace and justice.

The Forum affirmed our common identity not defined by nationalism but shaped by love in our identification with the koinonia of the suffering, oppressed and crucified peoples.

In this context, the Forum made up of partner churches, ecumenical organisations, the PCT, and representatives from other contexts of oppression, came to reflect in hope and confessing faith in the God of Life. Together they affirmed that the struggle for freedom of oppressed people, including their rights to self-determination and their pursuit of justice and peace is both a matter of faith and a Gospel imperative central to the mission of the church, and fully guaranteed under international law.

The Forum strongly affirmed that the quest for freedom and liberation from oppression wherein oppressed people are the subjects and authors of their own collective futures is a profoundly spiritual issue central to the dignity and identity of human persons created in the

image of the Triune God (*Imago Dei*). The Forum further affirmed that God is the God of the oppressed and that solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed is foundational to God's will in full harmony with seeking the integrity of all of creation.

As communities shaped by the Gospel, churches are uniquely positioned to gather people across divisions and witness to an alternative order rooted in compassion, justice, hope and love. The Gospel call is for direct and active dialogue, engagement and active solidarity between suffering peoples overcoming the constraints of political or nationalist identities.

The Forum celebrated the public witness of the PCT in their continuous struggle for human rights and transitional justice, social care for the Taiwanese society, and the prophetic voice calling for the freedom and right to self-determination of the peoples of Taiwan.

As an expression of global solidarity, the Forum was enriched by testimonies of the struggles for freedom and self determination from the Dalit community, West Papua, Latin America and the Philippines. The sharing of these specific contextual experiences revealed the common struggle against Empires and global systemic oppression. There was a strong affirmation that genuine freedom, justice and peace can be achieved only through solidarity among oppressed peoples transcending national and ideological boundaries, and through a shared commitment to the values of the kingdom proclaimed by Jesus Christ. Such solidarity calls for collective action to dismantle and overcome all systemic and structural causes of oppression.

The Forum ended with a strong expression of support from partner churches, ecumenical organisations, mission organisations, world Christian communions and academic institutions and a clear call to churches and ecumenical communities worldwide to stand in solidarity with the PCT and the peoples of Taiwan in their struggles for freedom, dignity and the right to self-determination rooted in justice and peace. There was a resounding commitment to forge together a global koinonia of the crucified peoples and the earth bringing together churches and social movements in pursuit of justice, peace and self-determination for all peoples and for the whole of God's creation.

Accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit and uplifted by the koinonia of the faithful, the Forum reaffirmed the call to embrace God's Mission and "Therefore we do not lose heart" ( 2 Cor 4 : 16).