



OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

NEWS RELEASE

The Oklahoma Conference of Churches welcomes the unanimous overall recommendation made by the bipartisan Oklahoma Death Penalty Review Commission “that the current moratorium on the death penalty be extended until significant reforms have been accomplished.”

The Oklahoma Conference of Churches has long advocated against capital punishment. Last year OCC issued its latest version of a “Theological Statement in Opposition to the Death Penalty” signed by all the bishops and other heads of the twenty Christian Communion which comprise the Oklahoma Conference of Churches (see attached).

“Each OCC member denomination has its own statement against the death penalty,” said the Rev. Pamela Holt, regional minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma and convener of the OCC Council of Communion Leaders, “and we stand united against capital punishment.”

The Very Rev. Justin Lindstrom, dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral and president of the OCC Board of Directors, said “The churches which OCC represents believe that capital punishment is unnecessary, unfairly applied, and even un-Christian.”

The Rev. Dr. William Tabbernee, executive director of OCC, said, “While we had hoped that the Commission would have abolished the death penalty altogether, extending the

moratorium is certainly a step in the right direction. We applaud the members of the Commission for their careful work and their wise recommendations.”

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