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Moderator Rada, Stated Clerk Parsons,

The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea ask that you share with all our brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church (USA) our deep sense of loss at the death of Rev. Syngman Rhee. We know that you grieve the loss of a fine churchman, former Moderator, academic and ecumenical leader, and we feel your pain as well. Please extend to those who loved and respected Rev. Rhee, our deepest condolences.

Here in Korea today, we grieve the loss of one who endured much in the division of Korea, but was able to rise above the horrors through the love of Jesus and the vision of the justice of God's will for the world. Many South Korean Christians have not been able to forgive the heartbreaking events that took place at the hands of the Communists when many Christian leaders were put to death and churches were destroyed. Rev. Rhee lost his father, who was killed for his faith in 1950, and his mother, from whom he and his brother were separated by the division of Korea, but he was not embittered, and his life has been dedicated to working for the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

The people of the PROK will remember Rev. Rhee as one of the ecumenical movement's bright lights who has been able to teach us much about faithful living. In the PROK, reunification of our beloved homeland is one of the chief aims to which we feel God is calling us. We have begun holding a prayer service each Monday evening for Peace and Reunification (평화통일 월요 기도회). Each week we light candles for peace and, holding hands, sing of our dream and hope for reunification. We at PROK rejoice to think that we act in the spirit and truth of those like Rev. Syngman Rhee who has searched and longed for God's unity to bring together the people in the land of his birth.

Please receive our condolences at this loss for your national church. Our prayers are with you.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Hwang Yong Dae, Moderator Rev. Bae Tae Jin, General Secretary
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea