

ABSTRACT

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abides in the fruitful field. And the effect of righteousness will be peace. (Isaiah 32:16-17)

Quoting from Isaiah, it is always our dream as citizens of the Philippine to experience peace. However Peace in the Philippines is illusive. The country is experiencing historic and continuing armed conflicts between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and different revolutionary armed groups demanding for a substantial socio-economic change and inclusion of the indigenous people and Bansangmoro in the central government development project. In the face of the socio-economic problems and political crisis the GPH and the National Democratic Front in the Philippines (NDFP) have engaged in peace negotiation with the avowed goal of resolving the armed conflict and attaining a just and lasting peace through basic reforms that will address and eradicate the roots of the armed conflicts.

With the persistent effort and advocacy work of the various stakeholders in the Philippines like the ecumenical churches, peace and rights advocates and people's organizations and after failed attempts at peace under five Philippine presidents, the government of President Rodrigo Duterte has returned to the negotiating table and eventually being called off because of challenging political condition in the country. Thus the success of the peace talk will always depend on willingness, commitment and political will of both parties to talk and give peace a chance to flourish.

UCCP, has been very bold on its prophetic voice as a church critical to the systemic evil in the society especially during the Martial Law of the Marcos regime and up to the moment when the people's rights and life are in jeopardy because political situation in the country. Based on its statement approved by the General Assembly called Peacemaking our Ministry in 1986, UCCP is mandated to take initiative and participate in all efforts in pursuing peace based on justice.

On the basis that UCCP has already been doing a lot already its peace building efforts. The focus of this thesis is to provide a conceptual frameworks

and strategic management of the UCCP Peacebuilding Programme that is practical, effective, empowering, systematic and relevant to the present needs and context of the communities where the UCCP local churches is situated and the impact of the program in the society as a whole. These frameworks and strategies are consistent with the normative orientation of the UCCP integrating in practice some of the most useful practices and approaches of various stakeholders working on peace building initiatives from the ecumenical church partners and peace organizations locally and internationally.

In doing so, these initiatives will significantly contribute in the building of a genuine and lasting peace based in justice in the country.