



Oklahoma Conference of Churches


Statement on Immigrants, Refugee Resettlement, and Entry to the USA from Seven Majority-Muslim Countries

The way in which we treat refugees, immigrants, and visitors is a matter of faith. Care of “the stranger” and the ministry of hospitality are central to the activity of the people of God. Immigration laws and policies related to refugee resettlement must uphold the human dignity of every person, regardless of ethnicity, race, or religion. We strongly oppose the recent Presidential Executive Order which discriminates against refugees and others from predominantly Muslim countries entering the United States, even with valid visas, granted after (already) extensive vetting.

Legitimate concerns about ensuring the protection of U.S. citizens from potential terrorist threats do not warrant the illegitimate assumption that *all* refugees and citizens of predominantly Muslim countries are to be considered terrorists until proven otherwise.

We call on the President and the members of Congress to reverse the practices put in place by the Executive Order of January 27, 2017 and to enact non-discriminatory immigration and refugee resettlement policies consistent with the highest American and humanitarian values, while continuing to take reasonable steps to ensure national security.

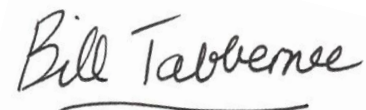
We call on the members of our constituent churches to pray for the elected government of this nation; to reflect on biblical texts dealing with immigrants and refugees (e.g., Leviticus 19:33-34; Deuteronomy 24:17-21; Isaiah 1:17; Matthew 25:34-40; Ephesians 2:11-13; and Hebrews 13:2); and to do all they can in their own local communities to build bridges of love and understanding between diverse religious and cultural groups within our society. We especially call on everyone to *stand against* all acts of hatred, violence, and discrimination and to *stand with* those who are discriminated against.



The Very Rev. Justin A. Lindstrom
OCC President



The Rev. Pamela G. Holt
Chair, OCC Council of Communion Leaders



The Rev. Dr. William Tabbernee
Executive Director