



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

PRESBYTERY OF CINCINNATI PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT PRESBYTERY OF EASTMINSTER

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE HURON PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN PRESBYTERY OF MACKINAC PRESBYTERY OF MAUMEE VALLEY

PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI VALLEY PRESBYTERY OF MUSKINGUM VALLEY PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

November 19, 2015

Dear Governor John Kasich,

As the world grieves in response to the deaths in Paris, Beirut, Baghdad, and Egypt, you have added your name to the list of governors who, out of fear of ISIS, are wanting to deny Syrian refugees entry into the United States and, specifically, the state of Ohio.

As citizens of this nation, we hold a significant degree of confidence in the existing vetting process for refugees, which involves the State Department, The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As Christians, we believe that supporting refugees from Syria and Iraq is a witness to our determination to “Fear not” and is a demonstration of our love and compassion.

The Synod of the Covenant of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) consisting of congregations within the boundaries of Michigan and most of Ohio, therefore urges you to reconsider your position.

In response to President Obama’s announcement that the United States would accept 10,000 Syrian Refugees within a year, the Synod of the Covenant immediately began planning how to provide opportunities of rest and security for families who have been forced to leave their homeland. Subsequently, the Synod of the Covenant set aside \$100,000 for a *Welcome Refugee* program. Our commitment is to promote justice and peace for all, in accordance to our calling as a Just-Peace church.

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has written on behalf of our church, “Our nation, for decades, has chosen hope and welcome for those fleeing war and persecution. Since 1975, more than three million refugees have found safety and security within our nation’s borders. Right now 11 million Syrians cannot go to school, tend to their land, or raise their children in a place they know as home. They cannot do these things because they, themselves, have been terrorized for far too long by numerous factions including their own government.”

The Synod of the Covenant implores you to reconsider your position and publicly invite Syrian and other refugees to find hope, hospitality and Christian compassion in the state of Ohio.

Rev. Raafat Zaki
Synod Executive

Rev. Cynthia Burse

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Synod Moderator

Rev. David Bartley
Synod Stated Clerk



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Dear Governor Rick Snyder,

As the world grieves in response to the deaths in Paris, Beirut, Baghdad, and Egypt, you have added your name to the list of governors who, out of fear of ISIS, are wanting to deny Syrian refugees entry into the United States and, specifically, the state of Michigan.

As citizens of this nation, we hold a significant degree of confidence in the existing vetting process for refugees, which involves the State Department, The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As Christians, we believe that supporting refugees from Syria and Iraq is a witness to our determination to “Fear not” and is a demonstration of our love and compassion.

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