

A Statement from Pastor Donna Farrell serving the
Church of the Mountains here in Truckee

Today you gather in solidarity, a people following their hearts to stand up for, what we call in the Christian tradition, the least of these. I am not writing this to preach but to share that our faith tradition is based on a Gospel, a writing, that shares the work of a radical revolutionary - Jesus. Without delving into too much theology and keeping it relevant and real, Jesus came to teach us to stand up for what is right and good, to take care of those that are oppressed and unable to care for themselves. If anything screams "please take care of us," it is the Families who are suffering this day.

There are several representatives here today from Church of the Mountains, a member of the larger United Methodist Church. We stand together with all of you regardless of your religious beliefs, status, race, culture, gender, and lifestyle orientation. We stand with you today because we believe that "Love Wins." It is this Love, from God and each other, that drives us to acts of Justice and Compassion. I regret not being able to stand here and see all your beautiful faces of love, justice and compassion today. I am grateful, though, to be able to share the Western Jurisdiction

of the United Methodist's churches "**Statement in Support of Ministry with Detained & Separated Families.**" It is as follows:

"Our United Methodist Social Principles and Resolution #3281 are clear: we support policies that compassionately welcome immigrants & respect their human rights. Policies that jail families, whether separately or together, fail to reflect our shared values of compassion, dignity, justice & love. At the southern border of our jurisdiction, families are being detained and broken apart in pursuit of an immigration policy that United Methodist denominational leaders have named to be cruel and unjust. United Methodists are called to mourn, and to act, when we encounter a child being taken away from their family. We reject any effort to label a human being "illegal. Every person is of infinite and sacred worth, and bears the image of a God who would have us treat with kindness and love. We oppose our government's "zero tolerance policy" towards immigrants and migrants. It has resulted in the internment of families who in many cases have come to our border seeking safety from violence and deprivation. The criminalization of the asylum process is unconscionable, and we affirm the rights of people who fear domestic violence and gang violence to seek asylum in the United States."

Thank you for sharing your time and heart today. May “Love Win.”