

Statement from the Bishops at the Border Ministries Summit

November 23, 2019

The eight Episcopal bishops who attended the Second Annual Border Ministries Summit held in Tucson released the following statement:

We the bishops who are gathered in St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, Tucson AZ for the Second Annual Border Ministries Summit acknowledge that North and Central America have a long history which we share, before the current nations existed. We have been bound together by shared cultures, languages and economies. We are in this situation together and we have been for centuries.

To the migrants we want to say we gathered here with you in our hearts. We see you, we hear you, and we wish to stand with you in our common search for security, dignity, justice, and community.

We also acknowledge that we are all seeking safety from violence and a peaceful way of life for our families. We stand against all criminal activity, the drugs which addict and enslave people, and those who would prey upon others through sex trafficking, kidnapping, and other forms of oppression.

We call upon our respective governments to work together across the Americas to address the causes of forced migration such as crime, political instability, climate change, and economic disparities.

We believe in Christ Jesus and we continue to meet Christ in the immigrants we are blessed to know.

We believe migrants are children of God and we must respect the dignity of each one. We also know them personally to be courageous, faithful, resourceful, capable people. They, like all of us, have the right to seek better lives for themselves and their families.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church, which has always worked across the boundaries created by tensions between nations. We commit to work with governments and people of goodwill everywhere and of all faiths.

We believe in the power of the Church to speak the truth, to work for justice, and to work to serve our neighbor in the name of Christ Jesus.

In His name we greet you all.

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall, Bishop of Arizona

The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn, Bishop of the Rio Grande

The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook, Bishop of San Diego

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor, Bishop of Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Juan David Alvarado, Bishop of El Salvador

The Rt. Rev. Francisco M. Moreno, Primate of Mexico and Bishop of Northern Mexico

The Rt. Rev. Ricardo Gomez Osnaya, Bishop of Western Mexico