Cherokee Park
United Church

371 Baker St. West
St. Paul, MN 55107

March 6, 2025

Dear Sibling in Christ of the MCC,

The increase in rhetoric vilifying immigrants and refugees, as well as more concrete acts by the federal government aimed at defunding refugee services, have left us outraged and deeply grieved (though not totally surprised).

We believe in honoring the dignity of all people as made in the image of God. We believe in the mandate in the Hebrew Scriptures where it says to welcome the foreigner among you for you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. We believe in Jesus' expansion of the concept of neighbor as told in the Parable of the Good Samaritan and through his own incarnated living.

Given this, we felt convicted to act. While we are a small congregation, we trust the Holy Spirit's call and our connection to each other as members of the wider body of Christ in the world.

Our church council decided to gather a special offering with the Minnesota Council of Churches' Refugee Services as the designee. The fruits of that offering are enclosed. Please use it however you see fit. We hope it will be a source of encouragement and a token of our thanks for the faithful work you do.

Blessings,
Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

Pastor Matthias Peterson-Brandt
Cherokee Park United Church

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