



Motion in Support of Extravagant Welcome to Immigrants and Refugees of All Faiths

Whereas our sacred texts and faith traditions call us to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner, regardless of religion or national origin, and

Whereas the President's recent executive order limiting access to the United States of America stands in opposition to these calls

Therefore, be it resolved that Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ in Bethesda, Maryland, stands firmly in opposition to this immoral and unjust order and encourages its members and friends to boldly take collective and individual actions that reflect that opposition and show faith-inspired hospitality;

That Westmoreland staff and leadership develop and publicize a list of such actions and organize and lead the community in implementing the actions;

That the list of actions include these items among others:

- Begin immediately to contact members of Congress asking them to oppose the immoral executive order;
- Contact state, county, and local officials stating the same position;
- Offer practical and moral support to people affected by the order;
- Leverage personal skills/connections/strengths in practical activism opposing the order;
- Insist that local officials and school boards develop, publicize, and enforce policies that support and protect vulnerable students and their families;
- Make support of Muslim neighbors visible and unmistakable;
- Contact media, expressing opposition to the order and support of our tradition of extravagant welcome;
- Join UCC's Justice and Peace Network and take actions recommended by that group;
- Offer faith-based sanctuary to vulnerable immigrants and refugees.

*Passed by a unanimous vote of the congregation
meeting in Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2017*