



Governor Brian P. Kemp
 The Office of the Governor
 203 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334

January 8, 2020

Dear Governor Kemp,

For over a century, the so-called ‘Peachtree Corridor’ churches of Atlanta have served as leaders in the religious life of this city. Collectively, we make a difference for good in a rich variety of ways here in the heart of Atlanta and well beyond. Our churches draw their members from across the metropolitan area and from all parts of the political spectrum. Between us, our membership constitutes over 15,000 committed Christians whose own engagement with the city and state is far and wide, often in positions of leadership and influence. We are proud to call Georgia our home state.

Common to each of our churches is a commitment to the most in need in our midst. Our churches heed God’s call to seek and serve Christ in all persons, respecting and honoring the dignity of every human being. As an ecumenical array of urban churches we live out that call in numerous ways, including in our ongoing work to support the lives of refugees in our state.

We are writing together to offer you the warmest encouragement to allow refugees to continue to be resettled in Georgia through the U.S. refugee resettlement program. Our shared experiences of working with refugee communities teaches us that refugees enrich, strengthen, and revitalize Georgia’s cities and towns. We find that they are welcomed by many of Georgia’s largest industries, such as poultry processing, manufacturing, warehousing, tourism, and hospitality. Over the long-term we have found that refugees in Georgia are a net asset to the state within six months of arrival and contribute more to local, state, and federal budgets than costs associated with their initial resettlement.

We remain deeply grateful for your leadership in this state and in our country. As faith leaders in your state, we ask you to keep Georgia the welcoming place for refugees that it has been for so many years.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Simon Mainwaring,
All Saints’ Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. Tony Sundermeier,
First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta

Rev. Mark Larson,
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Rev. Dr. Mark Brewer,
North Avenue Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Jarrod Longbons,
Peachtree Christian Church

Rev. Ed Bacon,
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

Rev. Dana Everhart,
St. Mark United Methodist Church