

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

GA-1934

Sense-of-the-Assembly

DECLARING THAT IMPARTIALLY PROVIDING FOR THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF OTHERS IS A VIRTUE CONSISTENT WITH DISCIPLES TRADITION

WHEREAS, scripture enjoins many virtues (Galatians 5:22-23) including impartiality (Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Matthew 5:42; James 2:1-13); and

WHEREAS, Jesus' parable in Luke 10:25-37 names those who provide impartial and immediate aid to those they encounter who are in need as "Good Samaritans;" and

WHEREAS, recent legal sanctions against or investigations of "Good Samaritans" and humanitarian aid providers in Texas, New York and Arizona may be perceived by many Disciples as acts of intimidation meant to discourage them from acting compassionately when confronted with immediate human needs;¹ and

WHEREAS, it is the consistent practice of Disciples of Christ to extend care impartially without respect to a person's national identity; and

WHEREAS, such acts are free exercises of religious faith as protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and matters of religious conscience as protected by Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting July 20-24, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa, declares impartially providing for the basic human needs of others as a virtue consistent with Disciples tradition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly opposes legal actions that criminalize the deeds of "Good Samaritans" and those who provide care without partiality; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that should a Disciples individual or ministry ever face criminal sanction or prosecution for giving humanitarian aid without partiality, this resolution stands as evidence that the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church regards such humanitarian assistance to be justifiably motivated by one's faith in Jesus Christ as informed by historic practice and heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

1

Dallas Morning News . "Teresa Todd Helped Three Desperate Migrants. The Government Needs to Stop Investigating Her For It. ." Dallas Morning News. June 6, 2019 . <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/2019/06/06/teresa-todd-helped-three-desperate-migrants-government-still-investigating> (accessed July 16, 2019).

Larkman, Connie. "UCC Pastor Targeted for Ministering to Migrants Sues the U. S. Government." United Church of Christ. July 09, 2019. https://www.ucc.org/ucc_pastor_targeted_for_ministering_to_migrants_sues_the_us_government_07082019.

Stanley-Becker, Isaac. "Activist Faced 20 Years in Prison for Helping Migrants. But Jurors Wouldn't Convict Him. ." Washington Post. June 12, 2019 . https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/06/12/scott-warren-year-sentence-hung-jury-aiding-migrants/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.83e3a3023fb4 (accessed July 16, 2019).

Rev. Thaddaeus B. Allen, First Christian Church, Parkersburg, WV; Central Christian Church, Uniontown, PA; Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY
Rev. Denise Bell, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA
Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, Central Christian Church, Denver, CO
Rev. Nadine Burton, First Christian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas
Rev. Renee Bridwell, New Hope Christian Church, Wichita, KS
Rev. LaTaunya Bynum, First Christian Church, Alameda, CA
Rev. Ed Cushingberry, New Hope Christian Church, Beaufort, SC
Rev. Don Dewey, First Christian Church, Orange, CA
Rev. Susan Gonzales Dewey, First Christian Church, Orange, CA
Rev. Leslie Dalstra, First Christian Church, El Paso, TX
Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker, First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Bloomington, IL
Rev. Jennifer Garbin, Sugarbush Christian Church (DOC), Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Rev. Betsy Goehrig, First Christian Church, Ocala, FL
Rev. Allen V. Harris, Shepherd Park Christian Church, Washington, DC
Rev. Pamela G. Holt, First Christian Church, Norman, OK
Rev. Eugene James, Central Woodward Christian Church, Troy, MI
Rev. Timothy James, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
Rev. Chung Seong Kim, Bethel Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
Rev. Coretha Loughridge, Timberlake Christian Church, Lynchburg, VA
Rev. Paul Koch, Fredricktown Christian Church, Fredericktown, MO
Rev. Andy Mangum, Northway Christian Church, Dallas, TX
Rev. Steve Martin, First Christian Church, Topeka, KS
Rev. Ken Marston, First Christian Church, Great Bend, KS
Bishop Valerie Melvin, First Christian Church, Goldsboro, NC; Greenleaf Christian Church, Goldsboro, NC
Rev. Sandy Messick, North Hill Christian Church, Spokane, WA.
Rev. John P. Mobley, Grace Christian Church, Helena, AL
Rev. Chris Morton, Iglesia Cristiana Discipulos, Omaha, NE
Rev. Cathy Myers Wirt, Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton, OR
Rev. J. Dean Phelps, New Union Christian Church, Versailles, KY
Rev. Juan Rodriguez, Arise Christian Church, Orlando, FL
Rev. William B. Rose-Heim, Powershift Worship Center, Raytown, MO
Rev. Penny Ross-Corona, Community Christian Church, Manchester, MO
Rev. Ron Routledge, First Christian Church, Brookfield, MO
Rev. Richie Sanchez, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, Altoona Christian Church, Altoona, IA
Rev. Richard L. Spleth, Allisonville Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
Rev. Sharon Stanley Rea, National City Christian Church, Washington, DC
Rev. Lori Tapia, Iglesia Alas de Salvacion, Mesa, AZ
Rev. Christal Williams, Alameda Christian Church, Nashville, TN
Rev. Douglas A. Wirt, Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton, OR