

## Addendum to Presbytery Statement on Immigration

As we have pledged previously to “advocate for and work for more just immigration laws and adequate support services to refugees in Iowa and the United States,” and in view of the increasingly harsh, unjust, dehumanizing, and inflammatory rhetoric by our national leaders and the government’s cruel and immoral attacks on undocumented persons throughout this country, we reject and condemn:

- Dehumanizing rhetoric applied to people of color, as when the President calls the entire Somali immigrant population, including a sitting member of Congress, “garbage;” when in response to one Afghani refugee attacking National Guard soldiers the administration pauses all immigration action not previously stopped and scrutinizes the status of all Afghan refugees including many who have put their lives on the line for the United States; referring to African nations and Haiti as “shithole countries.”
- On the other hand, making a special exception for white Afrikaaners from South Africa to emigrate to the US under the pretense that they are the victims of oppression, thus illustrating how white supremacist ideology drives policy-making.
- Raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers based on racial-profiling, pursued without regard for constitutional rights of individuals, and often carried out with violence and brutality and resulting in separation of families, endangerment of children, physical and emotional trauma, and even death.
- Deporting people to countries other than their home countries, to countries that may in turn send them to yet other countries, and often where they will be in danger – as when Venezuelans were sent to the notorious CECOT prison in El Salvador where they were tortured, an act committed in defiance of a federal court’s ordering the administration to halt the deportation.
- Any attempt to institutionalize discrimination against particular persons or groups based on race, ethnicity, color, gender, religion, and/or status as a refugee or migrant.

As these actions are in opposition to Christian values, we call upon all Christians to speak out against them. We especially call upon Iowa’s Congressional delegation, all of whom profess to be Christian, to speak forcefully against these actions.