



The River of Life Christian Church, Inc.

Official Statement from the Office of the Pastor and Executive Board of The River of Life Christian Church speaking out against current US Immigration Policy

June 23, 2018

Statement:

On behalf of The River of Life Christian Church, we are deeply troubled by President Trump's actions concerning US Immigration Policy. We contend his decision to forcibly separate children from their parents at the US borders is evidence of inhumane policy that is neither moral or ethical. We condemn the forced separation of all human beings — especially children — and the detaining of families as a solution for immigration reform.

The recent actions sanctioned by President Trump are akin to historical acts of disgrace against marginalized persons in the US. The separation of children from parents and mass detention of families currently occurring is eerily similar to the detention of Japanese Americans during World War II. It mirrors the forced separation of African parents from their children during slavery. Historically, our beloved country has behaved in ways inconsistent with the words of its own Declaration of Independence.

Therefore, we call on all people of good will, to reject and resist any government that promotes immoral behavior such as this. Recall the words of Nelson Mandela, "The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children." We stand with all faith communities to advocate for the "least of these" by speaking out against injustice. Do not forget the words of Jesus, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). We call on our elected government officials to consider comprehensive reform that affirms the lives of all human beings be they citizens or non-citizens. Remember the words of our Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," including those who seek asylum. We urge everyone to remember that regardless of our race or citizenship, we are all created in the image and likeness of God. As such, each of us has a right to fair and humane treatment.

While we rejoice in President Trump's partial policy reversal, we will not rest until unjust policies that sanction violence against refugees and asylum seekers are overturned. We stand in solidarity with oppressed children and detained families at the borders.

Reverend Dawrell Rich
Lead Pastor

Reverend Qujuana I. Jeffress
Executive Board Chairperson