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UCC General Minister and President condemns Donald Trump's block on refugees

**Rev. John Dorhauer says America is a place of refuge and hope,
while executive order displays xenophobia, fear, paranoia**

CLEVELAND (January 27, 2017) — United Church of Christ General Minister and President the **Rev. John C. Dorhauer** has offered the following statement regarding President Donald Trump's executive order blocking refugees from entering the United States.

I've spoken with church leaders who are housing and providing sanctuary to immigrant families. I've stood with refugee families taking shelter in a makeshift tent village in Jordan less than a kilometer from the Syrian border. I've given aid to a Syrian father living just a block from my home who had been tortured and forced to flee with his family and afraid for his life. In each circumstance, I was proud as an American to know that we were seen by all of them as a place of refuge and hope. I was proud of a faith that inspires me and others to be kind to the stranger.

Mr. Trump is a threat to all of this: to the church wanting to love their neighbor; to the child who opened his arms to a stranger outside his tent in Jordan; to the family in Cleveland trying to put their life back together. Worst of all, he is a threat to the hope that America has been to the poor and tempest-tossed around the globe, as well as to the hope that people of faith are taught to believe in and act on behalf of.

Mr. Trump wants to make America great again. Good. Someone should remind him that Liberty stretches her arms out in New York harbor to receive those whom other nations have cast aside. Her lamp shines as a beacon of hope and inspiration to those who seek freedom from tyranny and oppression. Those arms will sag now under the burden of his imposed ban on the world's most vulnerable souls. Her lamp will dim and go out if he does not reconsider his action. Trump's ban on refugees displays a xenophobia, fear, and paranoia that cannot become the lenses through which our foreign policy gets negotiated.

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About the United Church of Christ The United Church of Christ is a mainline Protestant denomination with nearly 1 million members and more than 5,000 congregations nationwide.

Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, the UCC is a church of many firsts, including the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly-gay man and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American.

The UCC and its members are tireless advocates for social issues such as immigration reform, racial equality, LGBT rights, marriage equality, environmental protection and economic justice.