

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Brian Steele <besteele@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 9:46 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: I value refugees

Hi Mary Lou,

I am a United Methodist pastor in Battle Creek, and I wanted to write to you about the legislation concerning the halting of refugees. As civic leaders, I would ask that you not give into the rhetoric of fear that is surrounding our country. Our country is known as "the land of the brave" and I am asking that you and other officials be brave right now. Yes, people are afraid, but as you know the vetting system is actually very complex and when properly understood, it should give us much confidence. Halting refugees--especially women and children in war-torn countries--is simply not representative of our American values. We don't need people who are already vulnerable in our society to become even more vulnerable. As you probably know, hate crimes have been on the rise in recent weeks. Let us not give people more ammunition to be hateful and irrationally afraid. As Americans, we are better than that.

Thank you.

In grace,
Brian Steele

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Brian Steele
Pastor Christ UMC
Battle Creek, MI
www.battlecreekchrist.com