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Local clergy respond to Trump's immigration order

Tuesday

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On Jan. 27, President Trump signed an Executive Order halting immigration from Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Libya and Yemen. The order also precludes entry of all individuals from these countries for 90 days. The president called for a re-evaluation of the process vetting immigrants entering the United States.

The Executive Order created a crisis in our major airports. Legal U.S. residents (U.S. residents holding legitimate Green Cards and valid visas) who had been traveling abroad, were being denied entry as a result of the Executive Order. We pray that this was an unforeseen and unintended outcome of the Executive Order.

Federal judges in New York, Virginia, Washington and Massachusetts issued orders providing entry to those being detained in their respective states. Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have called for the president to work together with Congress and appropriate agencies to craft a practical alternative to the Executive Order.

As a candidate, the president touted himself as a Christian dedicated to Christian values. Furthermore, he touted himself as the father of an observant Jew and a proponent of Jewish values. We, therefore, call upon President Trump to embrace a commandment that is a core value of both traditions. "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself." (Leviticus 19:34)

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the safety of the American people. We call upon the president to work together with Congress and appropriate agencies to craft a practical alternative to the Executive Order. This alternative should be consistent with the values of this great country as reflected in the words of our first president "The bosom of America is open to receive not only the opulent and respectable stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges, if by decency and propriety of conduct they appear to merit the enjoyment." (George Washington December 2, 1783)

We urge all citizens, both Democrats and Republicans, to write our president, senators and members of congress. Urge them to resolve this urgent matter in a manner of compassion consistent with the ideals of this great country. To do anything less is simply un-American.

Ministerium - Seacoast Interfaith Clergy Association

Reverend Grace P. Burson

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Newington

Carol Jacques-Dow, Pastoral Minister

Corpus Christi Parish (RC) - Portsmouth

Reverend Robert Fellows

Community Congregational Church (UCC), Greenland

Reverend Fr. Gary Belliveau

Corpus Christi Parish (RC) - Portsmouth

Reverend Chris Jablonski

South Church (UU) - Portsmouth

Reverend Phil Johnson

Seventh Day Adventist Church - Portsmouth

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Portsmouth Regional Hospital

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Reverend Rev Carolyn H Keilig

North Church (UCC) – Portsmouth

Reverend Patty Marsden

Newmarket Community Church

Reverend Dr. Steve Notis

Hampton United Methodist Church

Reverend Nancy Rockwell

Newington Town Church, UCC.

Rabbi David Ross Senter

Temple Israel - Portsmouth

Reverend Lauren Smith

South Church (UU) - Portsmouth

Reverend Robert E. Stevens, Jr.

St. John's Episcopal Church - Portsmouth

Reverend Anne Williamson

St. John's Episcopal Church - Portsmouth



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