

AFTER THE ELECTION

remember who you are called to be, God's heart and hands in the world.

ADOPTED BY THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 2016

To our neighbors who are anxious this week because you are women, Muslim, African American, Native American, Latino/a, immigrant, LGBTQ persons, and differently-abled,

We see you. Many of us are you.

We know that overt sexism, corruption, xenophobia, racism, homophobia, and Islamophobia have not only been undercurrents of our political rhetoric this year, but, in many cases, prominent features of it.

After the election, like many of you, we woke with a gnawing fear that that rhetoric might translate into acts of injustice against you, your families, and your bodies.

We believe that every person is created in God's image, imbued and blessed with inherent dignity and worth. We reject the notion that one group of people benefit only at the expense of another group. We will not sit idly by and allow the rights and dignity of any of our community to be threatened or revoked.

We see you and we stand with you.

Simultaneously, we repent of where the church has failed or fallen down in this work - we know we have not always stood with you. We recognize the great responsibility the church has to join in God's mission to reconcile the world, to never cease in working against injustice, and we commit to working for policies and systems that will bring healing and restoration and relief.

- We will continue the work of peace and justice to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and welcome the refugee and immigrant
- We will be active in civic conversations
- We will build bridges of friendship and kinship between our faith communities,
- We will be committed to breaking bread with all our neighbors and witness to the strength of respectful relationship in these times.

To any of our neighbors who find themselves the target of discrimination, racism, islamophobia, homophobia, sexism, or any kind of intolerance – we are with you. We pledge our support as leaders in the wider community, that we will stand between you and injustice. Our doors are open and our faith communities are safe spaces to any who need them.

God's gift to us is our difference and diversity. We believe we are strengthened as a diverse people by the great gifts you bring to our common life.

Whatever comes next, we see you and we want to be in relationship with you and we commit to being strong allies to you.

We see you and we stand with you!

