

University Presbyterian Church &
UKIRK Campus Ministry at ASU, Tempe
139 E Alameda Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85282-3597

August 27, 2014

Greetings Rev. Ledermann and Members of University Presbyterian!

I bring you words of support and solidarity from the congregation of Shadow Rock United Church of Christ in Phoenix AZ. We are blessed by your leadership and example as you provide sanctuary for Luis Lopez.

God spoke to the displaced people words of welcome, promise, and homecoming through the poet prophets of the Hebrew scripture. God was not barricading buses, waving flags and shouting with voices of disdain and rejection as people moved across borders to provide for their families. Our congregations are instruments of hope, healing, and compassion as we respond to today's people in exile. Your moral leadership is an example for us and we are grateful.

University Presbyterian Church joins Southside Presbyterian in Tucson and Shadow Rock UCC in Phoenix in taking a stand and winning a measure of compassion and justice from the broken immigration system. Imagine what a thousand or more congregations could do if we simply say these human beings are our neighbors as Jesus defined neighbor, and we will not let the system have them. Perhaps we as the people of God with our vision of Shalom could trump the special interests that paralyze our democracy, and finally move our legislators to act on immigration reform.

Our congregations welcome the day when comprehensive immigration reform is characterized by justice for all instead of suffering for the many. Our hearts, minds and prayers are with you!

Your Sojourner in Christ's Service,

Rev. Ken Heintzelman

Rev. Ken Heintzelman is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He currently serves the congregation of Shadow Rock UCC in Phoenix, AZ.

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