

# The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace

## Social Justice Response Team Update

October 20, 2017: Update Regarding the Replacement of the Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program

### ***The Issue***

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This week U.S. District Judge William Alsup ordered the Trump administration to release all documentation related to its decision to end the DACA program, as well as materials that informed John Kelly's decision in February 2017 to keep the program. This is an interesting new development that bears watching, as the fight over the future of DACA enters the court system.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions defended Trump administration's decision to end DACA in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee stating the program was an "unlawful" overreach by President Obama. He did, though, also state that the current administration is willing to work with Congress to re-work the program.

Bi-partisan Initiatives have been introduced in Congress that will make DACA or similar programs the law of the land.

The path forward remains far from clear and, in the absence of court protection or congressional action, large-scale deportations of the childhood arrivals could begin as early as March 6, 2018.

### ***How Can We Respond?***

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We do not expect nor do we ask that everyone agree with our assessment, or respond to this call for action. There is room for great diversity of viewpoints and interests within our church and our community. However, some may feel called to act as they learn the facts of this issue.

On Friday November 3 from 6:30- 8:00 PM Gettysburg Rising will hold a candlelight vigil on the square in Gettysburg to support and raise awareness about the fragile status of our immigrant community. Join this peaceful gathering of local folks and lend your support to this issue.

The Prince of Peace Social Justice Response Team asks you to consider speaking out. We believe that there is room in America for all God's children, and that we are strong enough to support the children who want to pursue a path to citizenship. The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) is specifically supporting the recently proposed Dream Act. To learn more, and to let your representative in Congress know you support it, visit: <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/immigration?2>

THE UNITED STATES SENATE

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA) Class 2019  
[www.casey.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.casey.senate.gov/contact/)  
[202 224-6324](tel:2022246324)

The Honorable Pat J. Toomey (R-PA) Class 2023  
<https://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact>  
[202 224-4754](tel:2022244754)

## UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Scott Perry (R-4th District)  
<https://perry.house.gov/contact/>  
[202 225-5836](tel:2022255836)

The Gettysburg Times accepts letters to the editor from individuals once a month. People do read these letters, and writing one is a great way to educate and express your opinion. If you feel called to respond in this way here are a few basics on writing letters to the editor:

- Keep them short. Maximum length is 400 words.
- Get to the point early, or people won't finish reading.
- Be polite, even if you are angry.
- Include facts that can be verified.

If possible, submit letters by e-mail to [editor@gburgtimes.com](mailto:editor@gburgtimes.com) . (The paper sometimes makes typographical errors in transcribing snail-mail letters.)

Include your address, e-mail address, and phone numbers so someone can contact you to confirm that the letter is from you. (You may wish to attach the letter as a document and copy and paste it below the following sentence: "I will appreciate your considering the attached letter (copied and pasted below) for publication in the *Gettysburg Times*.")

There are several other papers in our area that will also accept monthly letters. If you would like more information about this, please drop us an email and we will be glad to get that to you.

## ***Pray for Immigrants and Dreamers***

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*O God of all nations and peoples: We live in a nation of immigrants, and one in which the diverse gifts of many peoples have contributed to our energy and strength. Yet it is one in which some immigrants are discriminated against because of the color of their skin, their language, or the country of their origin. Help us, by your grace, to offer hospitality to all strangers, as our Father Abraham did in the desert. Grant us the wisdom and skill to enact just and merciful immigration reforms so that the hospitality and access to this great land may be offered equally to people of all colors and races and nations. AMEN*

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## ***If you decide to respond, please let us know...***

Email our team at [socialjustice@gettysburgepiscopal.org](mailto:socialjustice@gettysburgepiscopal.org) and tell us your experience. We would love to hear about it. We are also very interested to hear your opinions and to answer any questions you may have.

And, if you wish to be removed from the mailing list for future communications from the Social Justice Response Team, write to us at the same address and we will do so.