

The ♦ Gamaliel ♦ Foundation

The Gamaliel Foundation is a network of more than sixty congregation-based organizations working for justice in nearly every major metropolitan areas in the Midwest. The network has a growing presence on the east and west coasts. Since 1998 the Gamaliel Foundation has fostered congregation-based organizing in three provinces in South Africa and in Kenya.

The Gamaliel Foundation provides local community leaders with exceptional resources such as extensive leadership training, strategic planning, development of issues of metropolitan equity, staff recruitment, staff development, and fund raising expertise.

The goal is to build powerful, effective, local and metropolitan organizations which become vehicles for leaders to participate in making decisions effecting their communities. Through their connection to the Gamaliel Network, local organizations are able to effect change at ever broader levels of power — state, regional, and national.

The Gamaliel Foundation builds on grass-roots empowerment and uses the tools of community organizing to advance progressive social transformation rooted in the faith values of its membership. This is evidenced in the National Leadership Assembly of the Gamaliel Foundation, an annual gathering of hundreds of delegates for Gamaliel affiliates which shapes and guides the mission and direction of the Gamaliel Foundation; in the Gamaliel Clergy Caucus, which offers theological training, resources, and representation for network clergy now numbering nearly two thousand; in NTOSAKE, a women's leadership program which offers training and a supportive network for women who are leaders in the affiliate organization of the Gamaliel Foundation, and in the newly formed African American Leadership Commission which is providing inspiration and hope for clergy who provide leadership for those who live daily with unfairness of spatial and economic racism.

The Gamaliel Foundation
203 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 808
Chicago, Illinois 60601
E-mail: gamalielus@sbcglobal.net
www.gamaliel.org

Civil ♦ Rights ♦ for ♦ All ♦ Immigrants

A Statement of the Gamaliel Foundation and Religious Leaders

“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” --Leviticus 19:33-34

“And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? . . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” --Matthew 25:38,40

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” --Hebrews 13:2

1. We remember

that the biblical tradition reveals God as present in the strangers welcomed by Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18), as the liberator of the Chosen People from their forced sojourn and enslavement in the land of Egypt, and as a God of mercy “who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18) and who commands the people of God to do the same (Leviticus 19:34; Deuteronomy 10:19);

that Jesus was a refugee in Egypt (Matthew 2) and is encountered in the experience of strangers, refugees, and migrants throughout history (Matthew 25:38);

and that as people of God we are part of a world-wide community, which extends beyond exclusionary borders and which embraces refugees and immigrants.

2. We affirm

that all human beings are created in the image of God and therefore enjoy an innate human dignity with the right to food, shelter, freedom and the opportunity to provide for their own good and the good of society;

that, historically, the United States “has consistently received immigrants, refugees, exiles, and the persecuted from other lands. Fleeing injustice and oppression and seeking liberty and the opportunity to achieve a full life, many have found work, homes, security, liberty, and growth for themselves and their families;”¹

and that in a world “in which global poverty and persecution are rampant, the presumption is that persons must migrate in order to support and protect themselves and that nations *who are able to receive them should do so whenever possible.*”²

3. We condemn

the harshness and inflexibility of many federal immigration laws; the prospect of detention of immigrants remote from legal representation and supportive community; the threat of deportation for minor offenses; the exploitation of undocumented immigrants, including their labor; the forced separation of immigrant families; and the punitive treatment, violence and death awaiting many immigrants who cross the borders of this nation by land and sea.

4. We call for

faith communities, people of faith and all people of good will to welcome, assist, and befriend immigrants;

faith communities, people of faith and all people of good will to speak out for just and fair treatment of immigrants;

public policy changes which secure civil rights for all immigrants, including:

- a broad legalization of undocumented immigrants who are contributing to the social and economic security of this nation
- full labor protection and labor rights for immigrants
- humane border enforcement policies that, while protecting the security of this nation, emphasize the safety and dignity of immigrants and offer a legal, safe, and orderly alternative for those seeking to cross our borders in order to work
- an end to the inhumane detention and warehousing of asylum seekers who have committed no crime and who have come to this country seeking freedom
- a reform of U.S. family-based legalization categories to encourage family unity in the immigration process
- an end to deportation for minor offenses
- protection of the civil liberties of all people regardless of citizenship

3. Condenamos

la severidad e inflexibilidad de muchas leyes federales inmigratorias; la prospectiva de la detención de inmigrantes lejos de un apoyo comunitario y de representación legal; la amenaza de deportación por ofensas menores; la explotación de inmigrantes indocumentados, incluyendo su labor; la separación forzada de familias inmigrantes; y el tratamiento punitivo, violencia y muerte esperando a muchos inmigrantes que cruzan las fronteras de esta nación por tierra y por mar.

4. Pedimos que

comunidades de fe, gente de fe, y a las personas de buena voluntad que reciban, asistan y que hagan amigos a los inmigrantes;

comunidades de fe, gente de fe, y a las personas de buena voluntad a hablar claro por un trato justo y equitativo de inmigrantes;

haya cambios de pólizas públicas que aseguran derechos civiles para todo inmigrante, incluyendo:

- una legalización amplia de inmigrantes indocumentados quien están contribuyendo a la seguridad social y económica de esta nación
- protección completa de labor y de derechos laborales para inmigrantes
- aplicación de pólizas humanas fronterizas que, mientras protegiendo la seguridad de esta nación, enfatizan la seguridad y dignidad de los inmigrantes y ofrecen una alternativa ordenada, legal, y segura para todos aquellos buscando cruzar nuestras fronteras para trabajar
- un fin a la inhumana detención y almacenamiento de aquellos buscando asilo que no han cometido ningún crimen y que han venido a este país buscando libertad
- una reforma de las categorías de legalización a base de familia en los E.E.U.U. para promover la unidad familiar en el proceso migratorio
- un fin a la deportación por ofensas menores
- protección de las libertades civiles de todo mundo no obstante su ciudadanía

1. “*Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope.*” A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States, number 15. Issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, January 22, 2003.

2. Ibid., number 39.

¹ *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope.*” A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States, number 15. Issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, January 22, 2003.

² Ibid., number 39.

Derechos Civiles Para Todo Inmigrante

Una Declaración de la Fundación de Gamaliel y Líderes Religiosos

“ Cuando un forastero viva junto a ti, en tu tierra, no lo molestes. Al forastero que viva con ustedes lo mirarán como a uno de ustedes y lo amarás como a ti mismo, pues ustedes también fueron forasteros en Egipto: ¡Yo soy Yavé, tu Dios!” – Levítico 19:33-34

“ ¿Cuándo te vimos forastero y te recibimos, o sin ropa y te vestimos? ...’En verdad les digo que, cuando lo hicieron con alguno de los más pequeños de estos mis hermanos, me lo hicieron a mí.” – Mateo 25:38,40

“ No dejen de practicar la hospitalidad, pues saben que algunos dieron alojamiento a ángeles sin saberlo.” – Hebreos 13:2

1. Recordamos

que la tradición bíblica revela a un Dios presente en los forasteros recibidos por Abrahán y Sara (Génesis 18), como el libertador del Pueblo Elegido de su jornada forzada y de su esclavitud en la tierra de Egipto, y como un Dios de misericordia “que ama al forastero, dándole alimento y vestido” (Deuteronomio 10:18) y que manda al pueblo de Dios a hacer lo mismo (Levítico 19: 34; Deuteronomio 10:19);

que Jesús fue un refugiado en Egipto (Mateo 2) y que es encontrado en la experiencia de los forasteros, los refugiados, e inmigrantes através de la historia (Mateo 25:38);

y que, como pueblo de Dios formamos parte de una comunidad mundial que abraza a refugiados e inmigrantes y que se extiende más allá de fronteras exclusionarias.

2. Afirmamos

que todo ser humano es creado a imagen de Dios y por ello goza de una dignidad humana inata con el derecho a la alimentación, el albergue, a la libertad y a la oportunidad de proveer por su propio bien y por el bien de la sociedad.

que, históricamente Los Estados Unidos “ha constantemente recibido a inmigrantes, refugiados, exiliados, y los perseguidos de otras tierras. Huyendo de la injusticia, y la opresión y buscando la libertad y la oportunidad de lograr una vida llena, muchos han encontrado trabajo, hogar, seguridad, libertad, y desarrollo para ellos y sus familiares”¹;

y que, en un mundo “en que la pobreza mundial y la persecución son rampantes, la presunción es que las personas deben de migrar para poder sostenerse y protegerse a ellos mismos, y las naciones que son capaces de recibirlos deben de hacerlo cuanto sea posible.”²

S . I . G . N . A . T . O . R . I . E . S

(Partial List)
Organizations are listed for purposes of identification only

Bishop Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Robert Edgar
General Secretary,
National Council of Churches, USA

The Rev. Robert C. Reynolds
Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Chicago

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard
Diocese of Albany

Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader
Wisconsin Area, United Methodist Church

The Rev. Joe A. Games
President,
Wisconsin General Baptist State Convention

Bishop Paul R. Landahl
Metropolitan Chicago Synod-ELCA

Bishop Stephen P. Bouman
Metropolitan New York Synod-ELCA

Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Detroit

Bishop Ralph W. Dunkin
West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod
ELCA

Bishop Michael Garrison
Episcopal Bishop of Western New York

Very Rev. John Brockland
Vicar Forane,
Northeast County Deanery, Missouri

The Rev. Hee-Soo Jung
District Superintendent,
Nicolet District-Wisconsin, UMC

Bishop Paul Stumme-Diers
Greater Milwaukee Synod-ELCA

The Rev. Lawrence J. Clark
Assistant. to the Bishop,
Metropolitan Chicago Synod-ELCA

The Rev. Rudolph T. Juarez
President,
Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus

The Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw
President,
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn
Archbishop,
Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Bishop William E. Swing
Episcopal Bishop of California

Bishop Peter Rogness
Saint Paul Area Synod-ELCA

Fr. Thomas Mueller, Dean, Chicago Deanery
Orthodox Church in America

Bishop Edwin M. Leidel, Jr.
Episcopal Bishop of Eastern Michigan

Bishop Gary L. Hansen
N/W Lower Michigan Synod-ELCA

Bishop Craig E. Johnson
Minneapolis Area Synod-ELCA

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black
Conference Minister,
New York Conference, UCC

Bishop Philip L. Hougen
Southeastern Iowa Synod-ELCA

The Rev. Gayle Engel
Conference Minister,
Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC

The Rev. Cynthia K. Hileman
Bishop's Associate,
Metropolitan Chicago Synod-ELCA

The Rev. Sheldon Culver
Associate Conference Minister,
Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC

Bishop Marie C. Jerge
Upstate New York Synod-ELCA

The Rev. John Sarge
Pastor,
St. Casimir and St. George, Saginaw

The Rev. Andre C. Allies
Rector,
Church of St. Faith, Epping, South Africa

The Rev. Msgr. Francis X. Blood
Pastor, St. Cecilia, St. Louis

The Rev. Scott L. Denman
Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, Oakland

The Rev. Kevin M. Turman
President, MOSES, Detroit

The Rev. Kevin D. Ballard, S.J.
Assoc. Pastor, St. Agnes, San Francisco

The Rev. Bob Keller
Pastor, Saint Paul U.C.C., St. Louis

The Rev. Michael Vosler
Order of Ecumenical Franciscans

The Rev. Joseph Jackson, Jr.
*Pastor,
Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church, Milwaukee*

The Rev. Anna-Kari Johnson
*Pastor, Zion Cristo Rey Lutheran Church,
Chicago*

The Rev. Dr. W.H. Foster
*Pastor, Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church,
Chicago*

The Rev. Cynthia S. Bumb
*Pastor,
Pilgrim Congregational Church, St. Louis*

The Rev. William B. Foley, S.J.
Director, Boys Hope Girls Hope, California

The Rev. A. John Schuler
Pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Louis

The Rev. Asher Harris
*Pastor,
Great Band Missionary Baptist Church, Indiana*

The Rev. Michael Harrison
*Chairman of the Gamaliel
African American Leadership Commission*

The Rev. Nancy Goede
*Pastor, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
Oak Lawn, Illinois*

The Rev. Ron Retherford
*Pastor, Community U. Methodist Church,
Elmbrook, Wisconsin*

The Rev. Dr. William K. Hedrick
Minister, Second Presbyterian Church, St. Louis

Sr. Rose Stietz, O.P.
Racine Dominicans, Wisconsin

Judith Williams
*Executive Director,
Waukesha Catholic Worker, Wisconsin*

The Rev. Robert E. Walker, Jr.
*Pastor,
Elderslie-St. Andrews UMC, Baltimore*

The Rev. Kurt O. Handrich
*Pastor,
Calvary Lutheran Church, Beloit, Wisconsin*

The Rev. Dr. William D. Booth
*Pastor,
First Baptist Church, Hampton, Virginia*

The Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Kelly, Sr.
*Chairman,
M.A.C. Clergy Caucus, Chicago*

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Jacobsen
*Director,
Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus*

The Rev. Colleen R. Nelson
*Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church,
Battle Creek, Michigan*

Fr. David Nations, C.M.
*Pastor, St. Joseph's Catholic Church,
St. Louis*

The Rev. Linda C. MacDonald
*President, ISAAC,
Kalamazoo, Michigan*

The Rev. Grant Stevensen
*Chair, ISAIAH Religious Leaders Caucus,
Minnesota*

The Rev. Richard Creason
*Pastor, Holy Trinity Catholic Church,
St. Louis*

The Rev. Janet V. Hass
*Pastor, Northlake Lutheran Church,
Northlake, Illinois*

The Rev. Donald F. Burton
*Secretary,
Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus*

The Rev. Sheryl Cross
*Pastor, Immanuel United Church of Christ,
Hamel, Illinois*

The Rev. Terry Mahnke
*Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church,
Atalissa, Iowa*

The Rev. G. Patrick Thompson
Vice-President, MOSES, Detroit

The Rev. Robert Samson
Pastor, St. Sabina, St. Louis

Fr. John Estrem
*Pastor, Church of St. Peter,
North Saint Paul, Minnesota*

The Rev. Gregory C. Moser
*United in Faith Lutheran Church,
Chicago*

The Rev. R. Carleton Steck
*Co-Pastor, Northminster Presbyterian Church,
St. Louis*

The Rev. Jennifer J. Thomas
*Chair, MICAHA Clergy Caucus,
Milwaukee*

The Rev. Anita C. Hill
*St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church,
Saint Paul, Minnesota*

The Rev. Michael P. Russell
*Pastor, Jubilee Faith Community,
Country Club Hills, Illinois*

The Rev. Douglas J. Mork
*Rector, Episcopal Church of the Nativity,
Burnsville, Minnesota*

The Rev. David Groenemann
*Pastor, Mt. Tabor United Church of Christ,
St. Louis*

The Rev. Robert Johnson
*Pastor, Fellowship Lutheran Church,
Sterling Heights, Michigan*

The Rev. Ron Serino
*Associate Minister,
First Congregational Church of St. Louis*

The Rev. Canon Susan Moss
*Canon Missioner,
Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota*

The Rev. James E. Seim
*Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Neenah, Wisconsin*

The Rev. C.D. Dollgener
*Assoc. Pastor, St. John's United Church of Christ,
Mehlville, Missouri*

The Rev. Karl N. Redelsheimer
*Pastor, Pilgrim Lutheran Church,
Chicago*

The Rev. Edgar Ramirez
*Associate Pastor, Saint Francis de Sales,
St. Louis*

The Rev. Linda A. Kay
*Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church,
Riverdale, Illinois*

The Rev. Patrick Ryan
Pastor, St. Norbert, St. Louis

The Rev. Sharon Smith
*Pastor, Sharon Smith Ministries,
O'Fallon, Illinois*

The Rev. James V. Veltrie, S.J.
Staff, St. Louis University