

# SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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December 31, 2015 (Seventh Day of Christmas)

Office of the Governor  
State Capital  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin,

Christmas greetings to you from the Presbyterian Church in Shepherdstown.

I do not know your or the legislature's disposition toward Syrian refugee resettlement in our state but I would like you to know ours.

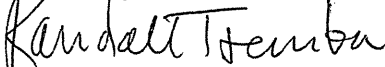
The Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) invited congregations around the country to honor the Biblical mandate to provide hospitality to strangers including refugees who are fleeing civil war. With other Presbyterian churches in our nation, we choose welcome.

Last month the children of our church assembled 25 school kits to be sent through Church World Service (CWS) to children in refugee camps. Our senior high youth assembled ten hygiene kits for distribution by CWS. Several parents and their children joined Muslims in prayer at a local mosque. A church committee is exploring ways to assist a refugee family or two toward resettlement in our country, and possibly in our state, if the way be clear.

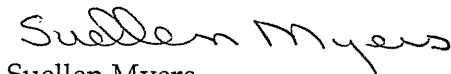
We understand and accept the challenges this presents to us and are prepared to face them with faith, hope and love. This is our Christian obligation and privilege. Furthermore, we support a fair and rigorous screening process of refugees while also honoring the moral imperative to welcome the stranger.

The Session (church council) of the Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church (SPC) joins me in inviting you and our state to adopt a disposition and policy of welcome for our desperate Syrian brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,



Randall Tremba  
Minister



Suellen Myers  
Clerk of Session

cc: Senator Joe Manchin  
Senator Shelley Moore Capito  
U.S. Representative Alex Mooney  
WV Delegate Stephen Skinner