



WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY

In May of 2024 Washington Presbytery voted to prayerfully and financially support the established mission project with the Haitian community of the Presbyterian Church of Charleroi. The Missional Outreach Committee has highlighted this mission at each presbytery meeting, and other churches within the presbytery have contributed time and resources.

Washington Presbytery stands firm in their resolve to support the Haitian community and as a presbytery we wish to make the following statement which TE Sharon Woomer and TE Jeri-Lynne Bouterse have jointly worked on and endorsed:

The nation of Haiti is currently facing a deadly humanitarian crisis marked by political instability, gang violence, and economic devastation. Recognizing the emergency situation of our Haitian neighbors, the United States established a way for legal entry which has led to the development of the Haitian community in Charleroi.

As people of faith, called to love our neighbors as ourselves, Washington Presbytery denounces all violent, racist and xenophobic speech and actions against immigrants in the United States and stands intentionally with the Haitian community in Charleroi, at this crucial time.

Words have power- spoken, written, texted or posted. Words can tear people down, put people at risk, drive us apart, and inflame anger, hate, and destruction.

But thank God, our words can also protect, build community, create a way for people to come together, and celebrate the Holy among us.

At this critical time, we call on our churches, clergy, and all Presbyterians to stand against hate and fear. We call our fellow Christians to be united in prayer with and for our Haitian neighbors.

As followers of Jesus, we must seek opportunities to speak the truth amid lies, and to be ready to show signs of support and safety to those at risk.

We are called to speak hope and life and to be active physical expressions of God's love in the world.