



The United Methodist Church  
GREAT PLAINS AREA

SCOTT J. JONES  
Resident Bishop

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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

A news report today has indicated that Governor Brownback has decided that the State of Kansas will not cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security in providing assistance for the settlement of refugees in the state of Kansas. I am deeply saddened by such a decision.

As the leader of 630 congregations in the state, I am in a position to offer help to your Department in the resettlement effort. I am prepared to take the lead in forming a non-governmental organization to serve as a partner in your efforts. I envision such an organization would include both religious and secular organizations. I am not sure what is involved in such a partnership, but I believe that the Great Plains Conference is capable of providing significant help for this important work.

If there is any possibility of our being involved in assisting you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Jones



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**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

Scott J. Jones  
Resident Bishop  
The United Methodist Church  
Great Plains Area  
9440 E. Boston, Suite 160  
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Dear Bishop Jones:

Thank you for your April 26, 2016 letter about the resettlement of refugees in the State of Kansas. I appreciate your concerns and offers of assistance.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is committed to continuing our Nation's strong history and tradition of accepting refugees who fear persecution in their home countries. Our emphasis is on admitting the most vulnerable refugees, including survivors of violence and torture, those with severe medical conditions, and women and children, in a manner that is consistent with national security priorities.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is an interagency effort involving a number of governmental and non-governmental partners. DHS is responsible for adjudicating refugee applications and coordinates security screening prior to a refugee's admission into the United States. The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) has the responsibility for initial reception and placement of refugees upon entry to the United States. We have forwarded your letter to our colleagues at PRM for their consideration.

The PRM web site includes information that may be of interest to you. Please reference <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/index.htm> for information about refugee resettlement.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Langlois".

Joseph E. Langlois

Associate Director

Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate