

AMMPARO

Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

RE: Who is My Neighbor: Campaign for Human Dignity

Dear Bishops and Synod staff,

Greetings from ELCA AMMPARO in this really tumultuous year where immigration enforcement and related issues are in the news on a daily basis! We believe that we are living in an era of strategic dehumanization, not just in the United States but in this world!

As you plan your assemblies and upcoming synod gatherings, we urge you to take a look at some new resources developed by AMMPARO to begin what can hopefully be conflict-free conversations around immigration, or to study our ELCA social message on immigration or at a deeper level to discuss this concept of strategic dehumanization and begin to find action steps to raise awareness about it.

Here is a link to the google folder that contains these resources:

[Who is My Neighbor - Campaign on Human Dignity - Google Drive](#)

Let me describe each one:

Sacred Crossroads – This document helps prepare for candidate discernment around elections using our social statements and messages. **(Basic)**

Created in the Image of God: Affirming Our Shared Dignity – This resource focuses on the social message on immigration and can be used as a one-time study with discussion questions for personal reflection or group work. **(Basic)**

Conversations Around Immigration - In our congregational and public life, we find ourselves sitting in the pews with people who share the same faith but who may support different candidates or policies than we do. This facilitated conversation guide helps us address how we reach across these divides as a congregational community and listen to each other, and how we can begin to find common ground with each other. **(Basic)**

Words Create Worlds- This basic document helps people understand why the use of the word ‘illegal’ is not an accurate description of human beings; nor is it affirming of human dignity. **(Basic)**

Faithful Resistance: Fighting the Sin of Dehumanization – this blog piece is a short piece to begin the discussion of strategic dehumanization from a faith perspective. **(Intermediate)**

Strategic Dehumanization, Sovereignty and Citizenship: The Role of the Church of and With the Forcibly Displaced – This resource describes in detail what is meant by strategic dehumanization and encourages individual and perhaps congregational action toward human dignity for each person.

We hope to continue posting resources in this folder so you can refer to them as needed. A resource guide is being prepared and will be posted in this folder soon. It will include educational materials, videos, lists of suggested speakers and other helpful information. My hope is that you will consider how these materials can be used for synod events and promoted in congregations, conferences and theological conferences. We would be happy to assist you in designing a theological conference with outside speakers.

As we celebrate 10 years of AMMPARO, we are working with the Europe desk and Wittenberg Center to create a series of events starting this fall on the role of the church in migration and with the forcibly displaced with theologians from around the world.

Thank you for your support of vulnerable members of our communities in this most challenging time.

On Behalf of the AMMPARO team,

Mary Campbell