Dear Committee on Immigration,

Greetings from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship as you prepare to serve at the 225th General Assembly.

Our call to love our neighbor is central to our Christian conviction, a call that is central to the work of your committee. Many of the overtures on your docket will affect the ways in which we recognize and honor the dignity and humanity of those who enter our borders, often fleeing violence.

Because reducing violence and providing accompaniment to those fleeing violence is a focus of our work, we offer a few comments here. Thank you for reading.

As you act, have courage! And have a great experience in this hybrid GA. Please call on us if we can help or join the Facebook community: presbys following GA225

Sincerely,
Rev. David Ensign, PPF Interim Executive Director
info@presbypeacefellowship.org

PPF SUPPORTS the following items:

[IMM-03] A Resolution to Establish a Network of Immigration Lawyers; creates a network of pro-bono immigration lawyers to work on asylum cases throughout the United States. We hope that such a network would also include paralegals and accompaniment opportunities for other volunteers to help, such as providing rides to court hearings or language interpretation.

[IMM-06] On Declaring the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Be a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church; establishes an official policy to encourage congregations, mid councils, and members to support immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and their children. It also asks us to resist efforts by the government to separate families.

Who we are:

Founded in 1944, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is a nation-wide community of over 3200 Presbyterian households who believe that Jesus calls the church to help reduce war, violence and exploitation in the world. We are a non-partisan group, open to all Presbyterians, funded by our members, many of whom have been mission workers across the world, past General Assembly participants and activists on war and peace issues in our churches and communities.

Except for a small staff, we are volunteers whose time and participation in GA is given freely. We do not work for or represent any government or outside lobby group. We see divestment as a tool for peacemaking. And we see climate change as the greatest threat to peace ever. We have divested our Peace Fellowship Endowment Fund at the Presbyterian Foundation of all fossil fuel companies and over 20 companies that profit from or enable the Occupation of Palestine by Israel. To us, this is nonviolence at work, a movement of the spirit. Be Bold! Nonviolence Works.