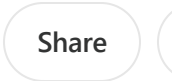
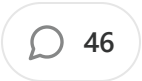
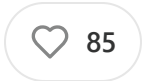


PCA Members, I Don't Think This is Wise



ERICK-WOODS ERICKSON

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Forgive me for emailing everyone. I don't have a way to just email members of 1 denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America, but I know many of you are members.

It is unquestionably a conservative denomination. But I have a real problem with the advice the Mission to North America **is giving out** to illegal aliens wishing to avoid deportation. I find the highlighted portion deeply problematic.

What should I do if I am detained by ICE?

- 1) Follow the Know Your Rights guidelines specific to your encounter with Immigration. (See *"What rights do non-citizens have? Know your Rights"*);
- 2) Remain calm. Show ICE your identity document (if you do not have lawful status, show an identity document that does not include your country of birth or citizenship). If you have lawful status and any proof of status, proof of having been in the U.S. for two years and/or proof of having applied for asylum or some other immigration benefit, show that to ICE;
- 3) Ask to call an immigration lawyer;
- 4) If you were granted parole or have been in the U.S. for less than two years and you fear returning to your home country, tell the officer you are afraid to go back. You should get a Credible Fear Interview as a result. If the officer denies your Credible Fear Interview, ask for the chance for an immigration judge to review your fear.

I do not think any Christian denomination should encourage those who break the law to hide the evidence of their crimes in order to avoid the consequences.

I certainly am on record saying we need to be compassionate to every immigrant including illegal immigrants. Lord knows I worked as a lawyer representing more than one illegal alien who had been wronged by American citizens taking advantage of their illegal status.

But as someone who takes the law and our obligations under it seriously, I find bad that a missional organization would advise people to avoid showing documents with “country of birth or citizenship” to escape the consequences of coming into the United States illegally.

This is terrible advice, and as a denomination member, I wish to register my dissent forcefully. In fact, I dare say if the person takes the advice and willfully hides their documentation to avoid revealing it, it could put them in an even worse situation.



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Linda Gray Linda's Substack 3h

Why doesn't the church help them to find the line where becoming a legal citizen begins.

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1 reply



Paul W. Williams, CPA 4h

As a RE in the PCA old enough to be aware of our origins, I have to say that this sounds a lot like PCUSA pronouncement than one from the PCA. That statement in and of itself should give PCA members great pause-

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