

*Responses to The Nashville Statement and Ending DACA:
Pullen Memorial Baptist Church Staff
Raleigh, NC // September 7, 2017*

May it be known that the staff of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church vehemently rejects both the theology and the spirit of The Nashville Statement released by The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (www.cbmw.org). We affirm that Christian scripture supports and blesses *all* relationships that are grounded in a covenantal justice-love, including same-gender loving relationships. We furthermore affirm that God rejoices in and blesses *all* marriages that are grounded in a covenant of justice-love. By justice-love we mean a love that nurtures equality, integrity, respect, kindness, commitment, and faithfulness. And finally, we believe that, as humans made in the very image of God, our Creator celebrates and blesses us as sexual beings and all the forms of diversity that our gender expressions and sexual identities reflect.

May it also be known that the staff of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church strongly opposes ending the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) Program. We believe that ending DACA stands in opposition to Christian teaching and the gospel of Jesus. Attacking immigrants is both anti-Christian and fundamentally un-American. Specifically, as people of faith, we believe that we are called to not simply welcome the undocumented among us but that we are to make provisions for their welfare. We are guided by the words of our sacred texts: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2) and “When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34) Our Christian faith demands that we extended radical hospitality to all—documented and undocumented. Our faith teaches us this truth: We are all strangers in a foreign land and we are all God’s beloved children.

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