

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contacts:**

- Daniel Romero, ICOM 303.258.6444  
[daniel@mnicom.org](mailto:daniel@mnicom.org)
- Jim Bear Jacobs, Minnesota Council of Churches 763.258.3866  
[jimbear.jacobs@mnchurches.org](mailto:jimbear.jacobs@mnchurches.org)
- Kelsey Schuster, ECMN 612.306.6162  
[Kelsey.s@episcopalmn.org](mailto:Kelsey.s@episcopalmn.org)

**The Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN), the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) and the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) denounce “deportation machine”; call for the removal of beloved Episcopal Bishop Henry Whipple’s name from Federal Building that holds DHS, USCIS and ICE**

**“What Would Whipple Do?” Vigil and Press Conference - Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

8am (vigil) - South “ICE Only” gates  
9:00am (press conference)  
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building  
1 Federal Drive, St. Paul MN 55111

In the late 1960’s, The Henry Benjamin Whipple Federal Building was named to honor the legacy of the first Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota who was an advocate for Native American Dakota peoples. Today, the Whipple Federal Building holds a regional “deportation machine.” Inside are the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Immigration courts separate families, ICE raids and arrests are planned and executed in our communities, and immigrants are sorted for detention in five Minnesota county jails that operate as immigrant detention centers.

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota and its faith partners call for the General Services Administration to remove DHS and ICE from the building or to remove Bishop Whipple’s name from the building’s façade. This event also serves as the launch for a joint movement to designate Minnesota a Sanctuary State.

“As people of faith, we are called to love our neighbors, without exception. Our demand that officials either remove Bishop Whipple’s name from the Federal Building or evict DHS and ICE, is ECMN’s rebuke of and unequivocal divestment from the ICE oppression that manifests inside the building and in our communities.”  
- Brian N. Prior, Bishop, Episcopal Church in Minnesota -

The current practices and actions within the Bishop Henry Whipple building are oppositional to the belief, policy, values, practices, and theology of the Episcopal Church. The fact that the building carries the name of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota’s patriarch, and icon of human rights, is an affront to our church. We join with our partners in faith in requiring its immediate removal.

“I know of no other instance in history where a great nation has so shamefully violated its oath. Our country must forever bear the disgrace and suffer the retribution of its wrongdoing. Our children's children will tell the sad story in hushed tones, and wonder how their fathers dared so to trample on justice and trifle with God.”  
– Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple –