

# IMMIGRATION

IN THE UNITED STATES

### What does the Bible say?

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 19:33-34)**

I [Jesus] was a stranger and you welcomed me.  
**(Matthew 25:35b)**

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. **(Hebrews 13:2)**

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. **(1 Corinthians 12:24b-26a)**



### What does The United Methodist Church say?

Throughout Scripture the people of God are called to love sojourners in our midst, treating them “as if they were one of your citizens” and loving them as we do ourselves (Lev. 19:33-34)...Welcoming the migrant is not only an act of mission; it is an opportunity to receive God’s grace...We call upon all United Methodist churches to welcome newly arriving migrants in their communities, to love them as we do ourselves, to treat them as one of our native-born, to see in them the presence of the incarnated Jesus, and to show hospitality to the migrants in our midst, believing that through their presence we are receiving the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #3281, “Welcoming the Migrant to the US”)**

We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families. **(2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles ¶162)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

## CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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### What do the facts say?

- In 2012 alone, the U.S. spent more than \$18 billion on immigration enforcement, more than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined.<sup>1</sup>
- The Social Security Administration reports that unauthorized immigrants contribute \$13 billion in payroll taxes annually.<sup>2</sup>
- Unauthorized immigration to the U.S. is part of a larger global migration crisis. In 2015, an estimated 65.3 million people were displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution. Tens of thousands of unaccompanied children are annually apprehended at U.S. borders. U.S. policy has focused on enforcement, rather than addressing root causes. It is time to focus on holistic reform.<sup>3</sup>



1 Migration Policy Institute, 2 Goss, Wade, et al, Effects of Unauthorized Immigration on the Actuarial Status of the Social Security Trust Funds 2013, 3 UN High Commissioner for Refugees

### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

**Join** a Rapid Response Team in your conference! Teams are made up of people passionate about creating welcoming congregations and mobilizing church and conference to advocate for just and humane immigration reform. Email Jeania Ree Moore for details!

**Urge** local churches to sponsor a Justice for Our Neighbors legal clinic. You can learn more about how to make this happen by visiting [www.njfon.org/our-services/legal-clinics](http://www.njfon.org/our-services/legal-clinics).

**Support** Justice for Our Neighbors by donating to the United Methodist Committee on Relief: Advance # 901285.

**Tell** your member of Congress that we need to fix our broken immigration system by providing a path to full citizenship for all undocumented immigrants, reunifying families separated by migration, and protecting the rights of workers. Take action today at [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org).



**For more information contact:**  
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