

RES 25-06 | STANDING WITH THE IMMIGRANTS

SUBMITTED BY: Jason Takagi, Dori Fotsch, Frank Wolf, Joel Hortiales, Tona Rios, Raphael Rios, Mateo Mamea, Josh Lopez-Reyes, Baldwin Israel Avendano, Monalisa S. Tu'itahi, Mele Maka, Ainise Isama'u, Allison Marks, Alena Uhamaka, Elenoa Fonua

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT: NONE

SOURCE OF STAFF TIME: Conference Leadership, The Cabinet

WHEREAS the Word of God implores all Christians to welcome migrants into our churches and communities and to treat noncitizens as our native-born citizens (E.g., Leviticus 19:33-34, Matthew 25:35); and

WHEREAS Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fled Herod's persecution and sought refuge in Egypt (Matthew 2:13-18). Likewise, refugees and asylum-seekers from around the world have fled persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, and sought refuge in the United States; and

Whereas in the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church, "[w]e oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees" (Social Principles); and

WHEREAS the California-Pacific Conference opposes separating immigrant children from their parents (RES 18-17, Journal 2018, H 72); and

WHEREAS the California-Pacific Conference, "affirms the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of all persons regardless of their nationality or legal status (RES 19-12, Journal 2019, H 89-90); and

WHEREAS "We call upon all United Methodist churches to... advocate for legislation that will uphold the civil and human rights of all migrants to the United States and will provide an opportunity to attain legal status for all undocumented migrants currently in the United States, as well as for those arriving in the future (RES 19-12, Journal 2019, H 89-90); and

WHEREAS "California-Pacific churches are encouraged to adopt a policy that respects privacy by not asking members of their congregation or members of the public who interact with the congregation about their immigration status, and adherence to a policy of not recording any information about any individual's immigration status (RES 18-2, Journal 2018, H 61); and

WHEREAS "We call upon all United Methodist churches to... welcome newly arriving immigrants into our congregations. (RES 19-12, Journal 2019, H 89-90)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Conference re-affirms resolution 19-12 Immigrants in the United States, that calls upon all United Methodist churches to engage in the following:

- advocate for legislation that will uphold the civil and human rights of all migrants in the United States and will provide an opportunity to attain legal status for all undocumented migrants currently in the United States, as well as for those arriving in the future;

- denounce and oppose the rise of xenophobic, racist, and violent reactions against migrants in the United States, and support all efforts to build relationships among people, instead of building walls among diverse ethnicities and cultures;
- welcome newly arriving immigrants into our congregations;
- oppose the building of a wall between the United States and Mexico, which the communities of both sides of the border are in opposition to;
- call the United States government to immediately cease all arrests, detainment, and deportations of undocumented immigrants, including children, solely based upon their immigration status until a fair and comprehensive immigration reform is passed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church denounce and oppose the use of the National Guards, Marines and other military personnel for the use of immigration raids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church denounce and oppose the use of church property by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel, that our Chancellor's office take all possible legal action to stop the use of church property by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Conference urges all local churches to take steps to protect all immigrants and prevent the use of church property by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel.