

Immigrant Welcoming Conference Resolution

Resolution Calling on the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ to declare itself to be an Immigrant Welcoming Conference and calling on its Congregations to Covenant as Immigrant Welcoming Congregations

WHEREAS

WHEREAS the International Association for Refugees has stated, "The world is in the midst of a long-term refugee crisis;" and

WHEREAS thousands of refugees and migrants, including those seeking asylum, come from throughout the world to the United States seeking safety, security, freedom, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS our immigrant brothers and sisters continue to suffer as they fear raids, deportation, and seeing their families torn apart; and

WHEREAS the Jewish and Christian tradition honors this text: "When an immigrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34, adapted from NRSV); and

WHEREAS Jesus says, "'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:31, NRSV); and

WHEREAS Jesus further says in Matthew 25 of those who will receive the kingdom, "When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger you welcomed me..." (Matthew 25:35 Contemporary English Version); and

WHEREAS migrants bring us as offerings their stories and experiences, dreams and hopes, energy and skills; and

WHEREAS our new neighbors experience difficulties adjusting to life in a new country, difficulties such as language barriers, culture shock, a sense of loss, and isolation; and

WHEREAS the welcome and support immigrants receive helps in the building of safe communities and future prosperity; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ (UCC) declares "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcomed here;" and

WHEREAS the Twenty-ninth General Synod passed a compassionate immigration resolution that included encouraging "congregations to further engage in education work on immigration from a faith perspective, participating in border delegations and work toward making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation;"

BE IT RESOLVED

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ declares itself an "Immigrant Welcoming Conference" and that it encourages the development of policies dedicated to

facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants into Wisconsin.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ calls on its members and congregations to become active "Immigrant Welcoming Congregations and Communities" and that it assist this process by making available on the Conference website the following resource which includes additional resources; "Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation-The Journey is Made by Walking," as well as any assistance requested of the Wisconsin Conference Immigration Working Group.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Officers of the Conference in consultation with the Wisconsin Conference Immigration Working Group will assist congregations in the implementation of this resolution.

