

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

2017 RESOLUTION #5 revised WELCOMING THE MIGRANT IN OUR MIDST

History

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

By action of the 2017 Annual Conference Session, this resolution was referred to the Coordinating Council. At its September 30, 2017 meeting, the Council moved to amend the resolution by deleting the words in line 13 (line 24 below) "and provide agricultural labor for produce and other goods that sustain us." The amendment passed and the Resolution was supported as amended. The revised resolution is before you.

23
24
25
26
27
28
29

RATIONALE: The United Methodist Church affirms the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of all persons regardless of their nationality or legal status. Yet we have neighbors, co-workers, friends who have been separated from their loved ones or are living in fear of their families being torn apart through our broken immigration system. We have sisters and brothers around the world fleeing violence and hunger and searching for a safe place.

30
31
32

WHEREAS, the state of Indiana is made up of many immigrants who have migrated to our state seeking safety, security and prosperity; and

33
34
35
36
37

WHEREAS, immigrants and refugees sit in the pews of Indiana's United Methodist Churches ~~and provide agricultural labor for produce and other goods that sustain us~~; and

38
39
40
41
42

WHEREAS, we have benefitted by the leadership of immigrants and refugees. They have added to our witness for Christ as we have all dedicated ourselves to the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

WHEREAS, the writer of Leviticus commands the love of the immigrant, who "shall be to you as the citizen among you." (Leviticus 19:33-34); and

WHEREAS early in Jesus' life, he was a refugee to Africa fleeing persecution and violence in his homeland. (Matthew 2:13-15) and told us that nations would be judged on the basis of the way they fed the hungry, clothed the naked and cared for prisoners (Matthew 25:31-46); and

WHEREAS, careless rhetoric has ignited xenophobic and racist attitudes among some of our fellow citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, as followers of Jesus, commit ourselves to work to eliminate racism and violence

1 directed toward newly arriving migrants from all parts of the world as well as those who
2 have lived and worked among us for some time and that we express our opposition to any
3 policy that breaks apart families and excludes refugees solely on the basis of their religion
4 or national origin;

5
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to that end, the Conference encourages all churches to
7 educate and equip its members to provide hospitality and welcome to migrants and
8 refugees in their communities (the Resolution approved by General Conference
9 “Welcoming the Migrant to the United States” would be an excellent resource); to take
10 further actions and advocacy for just policies through prayer and discernment; and to
11 support the continued development of the Immigration Rights Network in the Justice and
12 Mission Team of the Indiana AC.

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference calls upon our political leaders and policy
15 makers to assure our laws affirm the worth, dignity, inherent values and rights of immigrants
16 and refugees.

17
18 There is no financial impact to the Indiana Conference by adopting this resolution.

19
20 Respectfully submitted,

21
22 Rev. Steven Conger, Sr. Pastor, Meridian Street UMC, Indianapolis
23 Rev. Matthew Landry, Associate Pastor, Meridian Street UMC, Indianapolis
24 Rev. Darren Cushman Wood, Sr. Pastor, North UMC, Indianapolis
25 Rev. Ronnie Bell, Associate Pastor, North UMC, Indianapolis