

A RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION

Whereas, The Holy Scriptures call us as the community of God to provide shelter, protection, and help to sojourners living among us, reminding us that we, too, were foreigners in other times; and

Whereas, As United Methodists we believe that God is the parent of all, that all people are created in God's image, and that it is the right of all people to have a full and abundant life; and

Whereas, The United States of America historically prides itself as being open to those coming from diverse places to our shores to enhance their quality of life; and

Whereas, We live in a world where there are over 13 million people who are refugees, another 26 million who are internally displaced, and millions more who are migrants looking to find a way out of poverty; and

Whereas, The history of immigration in the United States has been mixed in that the United States has at times encouraged the presence of immigrants who could provide cheap labor to build roads and harvest crops while at other times closed its borders to persons from other lands; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church strongly urges the President and the Congress of the United States to support international economic policies that promote sustainable development and that use capital, technology, labor, and land in a manner that gives priority to employment for all people and the production of basic human necessities, thereby reducing migration pressures; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the President and the United States Congress to acknowledge that our nation's immigration system is broken, and to acknowledge that huge fines, long waits for legalization, and mandatory returns for all immigrants will not effectively or humanely reform our immigration system; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church calls for a workable comprehensive immigration bill that is not harsh and retributive but seeks to meet the standard of effective public policy and biblical faithfulness.

Submitted by:

The Conference Board of Church and Society