

Our Social Principles on ...

Immigrants

We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God.

We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities.

We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination.

We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all.

—*United Methodist 2008 Book of Discipline*
III. The Social Community ¶162
H) “Rights of Immigrants”



Our Social Principles on Immigrants

Read reflectively

As you think about the global community and the people who immigrate in search of a new life, consider these passages: Exodus 6:3-5, 22:21; Leviticus 19:33-34; Deuteronomy 16:14; and Matthew 25:34-36.

“Welcoming the Migrant to the U.S.”

— *2008 United Methodist Book of Resolutions (#3281)*

Reflect prayerfully

Do you consider yourself part of a “global community”? Do you see people in other parts of the world as your “neighbors”? How is God calling you to act justly toward your neighbors around the world?

Pray responsively

Lord, You welcome the stranger and pity the alien. Help me to do so as well. You understand why some people are forced to flee their country of origin, help me to share mine with them. Show me this week how to love my neighbor as myself. Amen.

Respond justly

Acts of Mercy

- Seek ways to welcome and assist, the refugee, immigrant, visitors, and undocumented person in your neighborhood.

Acts of Justice

- Become familiar with the DREAM Act (a bipartisan proposal that would create a pathway to citizenship for thousands of young students brought to the United States years ago as children) and similar immigration reform legislation. Support and advocate for the rights of immigrants while empowering such persons in your own community.

The United Methodist Church is responding justly

The General Board of Church and Society is advocating for comprehensive immigration reform legislation that will provide a path to citizenship, protect workers, reunite families, restore the rule of law and enhance security.

