

What does the Bible say?

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 19:33-34)**

I [Jesus] was a stranger and you welcomed me.
(Matthew 25:35b)

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. **(Hebrews 13:2)**

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.

(1 Corinthians 12:24b-26a)



What does The United Methodist Church say?

Throughout Scripture the people of God are called to love sojourners in our midst, treating them “as if they were one of your citizens” and loving them as we do ourselves **(Lev. 19:33-34)**... Welcoming the migrant is not only an act of mission; it is an opportunity to receive God’s grace... We call upon all United Methodist churches to welcome newly arriving migrants in their communities, to love them as we do ourselves, to treat them as one of our native-born, to see in them the presence of the incarnated Jesus, and to show hospitality to the migrants in our midst, believing that through their presence we are receiving the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #3281, “Welcoming the Migrant to the US”)**

We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families. **(2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles ¶162)**



IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

What do the facts say?

- In 2018, the labor force participation rate of foreign-born adults was 65.7 percent, higher than the 62.3 percent rate for the native born, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (US BLS, 2018)
- Most immigrants (77%) are in the country legally. (Pew Research Center, 2020)
- Mexico is the [top origin country](#) of the U.S. immigrant population. In 2018, roughly 11.2 million immigrants living in the U.S. were from there, accounting for 25% of all U.S. immigrants. The next largest origin groups were those from China (6%), India (6%), the Philippines (4%) and El Salvador (3%). (Pew Research Center, 2020)
- One-in-ten Black people in the U.S. are immigrants. The number of Black immigrants living in the country reached 4.6 million in 2019, up from roughly 800,000 in 1980 (Pew Research Center, 2022).



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Join** a Rapid Response Team in your conference! Teams are made up of people passionate about creating welcoming congregations and mobilizing church and conference to advocate for just and humane immigration reform. Email advocacy@umcjustice.org for details!
- **Urge** local churches to sponsor a Justice for Our Neighbors legal clinic. You can learn more about how to make this happen by visiting www.njfon.org/our-services.
- **Support Justice for Our Neighbors** by donating to the United Methodist Committee on Relief: Advance # 901285.
- **Tell** your member of Congress that we need to fix our broken immigration system by providing a path to full citizenship for all undocumented immigrants, reunifying families separated by migration, and protecting the rights of workers. Take action today at www.umcjustice.org.



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For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

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