



# FAITH & FACTS

## U.S. Immigration

### Civil and Human Rights

### 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)**

If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place ... then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers. **(Jeremiah 7:5-7)**

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

### What does The United Methodist Church say?

Welcoming the migrant is not only an act of mission, it is an opportunity to receive God's grace. The globalization of international economies and the continuing movement of migrants have created an increasingly diversified U.S. population and should be reflected in United Methodist congregations and national church leadership. Therefore, The United Methodist Church understands that at the center of Christian faithfulness to Scripture is the call we have been given to love and welcome the sojourner. 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. *(2008 Book of Resolutions, "Welcoming the Migrants to the United States")*



### What do the facts say?

Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke has said "a more liberal immigration policy would ease some of the burden of a shrinking work force." But he cautioned, "It would take annual flows close to 3.5 million immigrants, not today's 1 million, to adequately replace retiring baby boomers."<sup>1</sup>



As of March 2005, 60% of undocumented immigrants — approximately 7 million — had been in the U.S. more than five years. Of that number, more than half had been here more than 10 years. Participation in the labor force is very high for undocumented immigrant men: 94%. This compares with 83% for native-born men.<sup>2</sup>

Deporting 8-9 million undocumented immigrants would cost more than \$200 billion over five years — more than double the annual budget of the entire Homeland Security Department.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Taken from The News & Observer, October 5, 2006, by Kevin Hall

<sup>2</sup> <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/61.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.americanprogress.org> keyword: "deporting the undocumented"

### What do you say?

Take action for justice ...

- Urge your church and churches in your area to sponsor a Justice for Our Neighbors legal clinic through United Methodist Committee on Relief. You can learn more about what to do to make this happen by visiting <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/refugees/justiceforourneighbors.cfm>.
- Tell your member of Congress that enforcement-only immigration reform does not work and that what is needed is comprehensive immigration reform, which entails a path to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants, the protection of the rights of workers, and reunify families separated by migration and detainment. Take action today at [www.umpower.org](http://www.umpower.org).
- Learn Spanish and other languages different from your own. Share meals, attend worship services and social events with people of other races, ethnicities and socio-economic classes than yourself.



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