

- the protection of all workers who come to stay for a certain period of time as well as for those who stay permanently. The right to bargain for higher wages, to protest against poor working conditions, and to preserve their human rights should be maintained by all workers, documented and undocumented alike;
- elimination of for-profit detention centers;
- elimination of indefinite detention, incarceration of children, and the expanding prison population, which also benefits privately owned detention centers and prisons;
- preservation of due process and access to courts and to adequate legal representation for all migrants regardless of legal status.

ADOPTED 2008

AMENDED AND READOPTED 2016, 2024

RESOLUTION #3281, 2008, 2012, 2016 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

See Social Principles, ¶ 163, Basic Rights and Freedoms, G.

1.Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D. *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, p. 28.

2.B. Lindsay Lowell, Julia Gelatt & Jeanne Batalove, *Immigrants and Labor Force Trends: The Future, Past, and Present*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, July 2006, p. 1.

4272. Faithfulness in Response to Critical Needs

We express our utmost concern for the passage of anti-immigrant laws, which adversely affect the well-being of citizens and residents of this country as they engage in providing humanitarian aid to undocumented persons in several States.

The United Methodist Church is an open door church, where every person is invited to come in, get closer to God, and become a part of a community of faith. That community is totally committed to attaining the good for all people through social and spiritual transformation. Any policies and laws attempting to limit or restrain the church's work of responding to the needs of others is contrary to its most fundamental beliefs as stated in the Gospel: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him [regardless of color of skin or legal immigrant status] will have eternal life" (John 3:16). Similarly, the

parable of the good Samaritan invites us, as Christians, to do good to all people irrespective of their place of origin.

We want to issue a call to The United Methodist Church and all other members of the Christian community to renew their commitment and strengthen their resolve to be faithful to respond to the needs of others, particularly as we face laws, whose primary intent is to discourage Christians from fulfilling their mission: to love and help the neighbor. We remember when the apostles were faced by similar circumstances after the authorities wanted to impede the fulfillment of their mission, they firmly declared in Acts 5:29: "We must obey God rather humans!" hence the Christian mandate to engage in civil disobedience when laws and policies deem to be unjust.

We urge the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to request the US federal government to ensure the protection of the freedom of religion in the United States by stopping the promulgation of laws that penalize church members for helping immigrants in need; actions that aside from being congruent with Christian faith, are vivid examples of God's love for every person.

At the same time, we ask the various governmental entities in every community to respect, at all times, places of worship as well as all religious activities within and outside our sanctuaries or other church property.

We bid the United States government to give due legislative recognition to the legal right of every human being to exercise his or her faith without the fear of persecution, particularly while coming together to give public expression of their faith.

ADOPTED 2012
READOPTED 2024

RESOLUTION #3284, 2012, 2016 *BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS*

See Social Principles, ¶ 163, Basic Rights and Freedoms, G.

4273. Global Migration and the Quest for Justice

"Ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world."

—Social Principles, ¶ 163E (2016 *Book of Resolutions*), The United Methodist Church