
The Baptist General Convention of Texas has created the Baptist Immigration Services Network (BISN) to assist churches in providing compassionate, legal and timely ministry to documented and undocumented immigrants of all nationalities.

The Network has two goals:

- 1) Site recognition of churches or community-based ministries that will provide immigrants with various immigration legal services, and
- 2) Representative accreditation of individuals who can prepare documents and represent immigrants in the processes of status adjustment.

“The issue is close to my heart and experience because I am the grandson of an undocumented immigrant and migrant workers who carved out a life in the cotton fields of West Texas. My maternal grandmother came to the United States seeking a better life for her children and grandchildren. We did find a better life. Baptists introduced my paternal grandparents to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and then introduced us to the Texas Baptist family.”

Dr. Albert Reyes, former President Baptist University of the Americas and current President of Buckner International

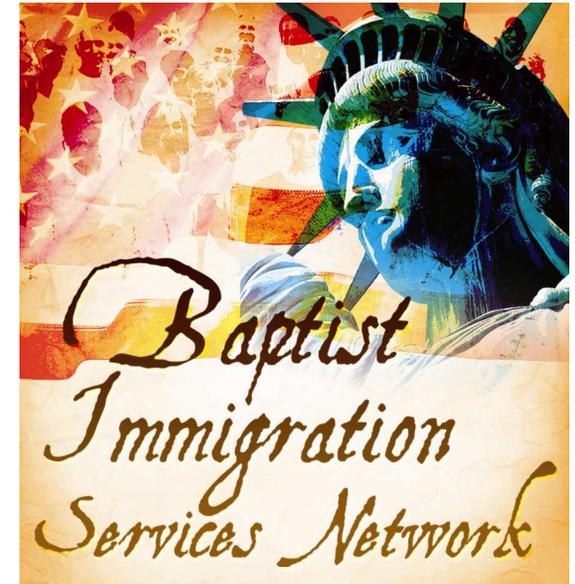
*“You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”
Exodus 23:9*

*“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
Proverbs 31:8-9*

*“The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt;
I am the LORD your God.”
Leviticus 19:34*

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
Hebrews 13:2*

Baptists Respond to Immigration



BAPTIST IMMIGRATION SERVICES NETWORK

c/o Christian Life Commission
221 E. 9th Street, Suite 410
Austin, 78701

Phone: 512-473-2288

Fax: 512-472-2707

www.bgct.org/immigration

Baptist Resolutions

Hispanic Baptist Convención

Whereas the allure of freedom and the possibility of prosperity are in the hearts of all people, and,

Whereas people are constantly leaving their homelands at great personal costs to seek freedom and prosperity, and,

Whereas Texas has become a leading receptor of undocumented immigrants with more than one million currently in the State, and,

Whereas the Bible teaches and the ministry of Jesus instructs that believers are to minister to the “alien” and the “stranger” in the land, and,

Whereas it is not a violation of Federal or State law to provide ministry to undocumented immigrants,

Be it resolved that this Hispanic Baptist Convención speaks forcefully and clearly in opposition to the current immigration system that hinders the search for freedom and prosperity and that the Hispanic Convención encourages the adoption of new legislation that would unshackle the immigrant, and,

Be it further resolved that Convención encourages a proactive involvement of ministry activity among undocumented immigrants through prayer and action, and,

Be it further resolved that we call on our Brothers and Sisters in the Baptist General Convention of Texas to adopt a similar resolution at their convention meeting in Lubbock later this year.

Adopted, June 2003

Baptist General Convention of Texas

Whereas the Bible teaches and the ministry of Jesus instructs that believers are to minister to the “alien” and the “stranger in the land;” and

Whereas Texas has become a leading receptor of undocumented immigrants with more than one million currently in the state; and

Whereas immigrants, documented and undocumented, are members of Baptist congregations and serve as brothers and sisters in Christ:

Be it resolved that the Baptist General Convention of Texas affirms the concerns of the Hispanic Baptist Convención and encourages a proactive involvement of ministry activity among immigrants, documented and undocumented, through prayer and action.”

Adopted, November 2003

BGCT

BaptistGeneralConventionOfTexas
Together we can do more.

National Convocation of Hispanic Baptist Leaders

Whereas, our beloved United States of America, a nation of immigrants, is in the midst of the most dramatic immigration policy reform in the 21st century,

And whereas, 12 million undocumented immigrants are living and working in the United States today,

And whereas, President George W. Bush has recommended that Congress considers comprehensive reform of US Immigration Law,

And whereas, the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, other national evangelical organizations such as World Relief, local churches and evangelical leaders have advocated for reforms in our family-based immigration system, more responsive legal avenues for workers and their families to enter our country and work, the option for those individuals and families to apply for permanent legal status and citizenship, and border protection policies that are consistent with humanitarian values,

And whereas, the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas passed a resolution in 2003 affirming Jesus’ concern for ministry to the “alien” and “stranger” in the land and encouraged “proactive involvement of ministry activity among immigrants, documented and undocumented, through prayer and action,”

And whereas, Jesus placed the poor and the oppressed at the center of his mission on earth,

Be it therefore resolved that the National Convocation of Hispanic Baptist Leaders encourage President Bush, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives to pass just and compassionate legislation that addresses stronger border security, respect for the law, and a process for citizenship with regard to U.S. undocumented immigrants.

Adopted, June 2006
Affirmed by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship,
June 2006