

Faith and Facts: Immigration

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- **Leviticus 19:33-34** - 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.
- **Matthew 25:35b** - I [Jesus] was a stranger and you welcomed me.
- **Hebrews 13:1-2** - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

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"*)
- Link to Faith & Facts card - www.umc-gbcs.org/atf/cf/%7B689FEA4C-8849-4C05-A89E-C9BC7FFFF64C%7D/FaithFactCards_CHR_Immigration.pdf
- Link to the General Board of Church & Society information on immigration - www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=2837503&ct=3957095¬oc=1

OTHER RESOURCES

Some of the U.S. Immigration Policy

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."

1. 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.
2. 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.³ ¹Taken from The News & Observer, October 5, 2006, by Kevin Hall ² <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/61.pdf> ³ <http://www.americanprogress.org> keyword: "deporting the undocumented"
3. A bill put together by Kennedy and McCain in 2008 found that if the 11-12 million undocumented people in the use began to have fair wages and pay taxes we'd have a \$66 billion dollar increase in taxes yearly, 700,000-900,000 new jobs would be created.
4. Pew Research Poll about Comprehensive Immigration Reform:
 - 25% of people believe the law should be enforced, extremists, should keep all people out, no change necessary to immigration policy

- 25% of people believe the law needs to be changed, for reform of the immigration system
- 50% of people are in the middle they are against both amnesty and deportation

Helpful Websites

- www.usimmigrationsupport.org
- www.whitehouse.gov/issues/immigration

Stuff to Google

- **The Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005** – It was passed by the United States House of Representatives on December 16, 2005 by a vote of 239 to 182 but did not pass the Senate. Requires up to 700 miles (1120 km) of fence along the US-Mexican border at points with the highest number of illegal border crossings. (House Amendment 648, authored by Duncan Hunter (R-CA52). Requires the federal government to take custody of illegal aliens detained by local authorities. Mandates employers to verify workers' legal status through electronic means, phased in over several years.
- **Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006** – It deals with immigration reform. It proposed to increase some security along the southern United States border with Mexico, allow long-time illegal immigrants to gain legal status, and to increase the number of guest workers over and above those already present in the U.S. through a new "blue card" visa program.
- **Emergency Quota Act (aka Emergency Immigration Act of 1921)** – was a United States federal law that limited the number of immigrants who could be admitted from any country to 2% of the number of people from that country who were already living in the United States in 1890, according to the Census of 1890. It excluded immigration of Asians.
- **Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986** – The Act made it illegal to knowingly hire or recruit illegal immigrants (immigrants who do not possess lawful work authorization), required employers to attest to their employees' immigration status, and granted amnesty to certain illegal immigrants who entered the United States before January 1, 1982 and had resided there continuously.