



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Board of Directors
November 24, 2015

Office of Loans and Scholarships
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
The United Methodist Church
Policy Change for qualifying DACA individuals

Whereas *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, Paragraph 162, Section III of The Social Principles, states: “We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all.”

And whereas, the bipartisan legislation known as The DREAM Act, pioneered by Sen. Orin Hatch [R-UT] and Sen. Richard Durbin [D-IL], was first introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2001, (S. 1291), and has repeatedly failed to become law;

And whereas, President Obama on June 15, 2012, issued by executive order, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program modeled on the guidelines for The DREAM Act,¹ offers a two-year, renewable reprieve from deportation to unauthorized immigrants;

And whereas, there are roughly 1.8 million immigrants in the United States who might be, or might become, eligible for the Obama Administration’s “deferred action” initiative for unauthorized youth brought to this country as children;

And whereas, statistics overwhelmingly show the students who met DACA criteria experienced a “pronounced increase in economic opportunities”;²

Be it resolved, The Committee on Loans and Scholarships of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church will extend its scholarship and loan benefits to DACA students under the same criteria as Domestic Applicants.³ DACA applicants must provide a copy of the DACA certificate issued to them by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

¹ Qualified individuals must be under the age of 31; have entered the United States before age 16; have lived continuously in the country for at least five years; have not been convicted of a felony, a “significant” misdemeanor, or three other misdemeanors; and are currently in school, graduated from high school, earned a GED, or served in the military.

² <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-documented>

³ Domestic applicants must be ACTIVE, full members of The United Methodist Church for at least ONE year. Membership is determined by the date the applicant was confirmed and took membership vows with a United Methodist church. Membership will be verified.