

RESOLUTION 4

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Whereas:

As United Methodists we are baptized and initiated into the body of Christ by water and the Spirit. Through the vows taken and renewed at every baptism, we accept the freedom and power God gives us to reject evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. In confession of Jesus Christ as our Savior we promise to serve him in union with people of all ages, nations, and races. (UMH 34)

Whereas:

Scripture mandates that we welcome the stranger until we see the stranger as our neighbor. The Hebrew Bible tells us, **“When strangers sojourn in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”** (Lev. 19:34)

Whereas:

The North Carolina Annual Conference 2006 approved the resolution *Care for Immigrants* advocating for the new immigrants.

Whereas:

The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church on May 2009 made public a **Statement on the U.S. Immigration Situation** advocating for a Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Whereas:

The *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2009-2012* addresses on paragraph **H) Rights for Immigrants**:

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 the struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. (Social Principles 27)

NOW ,THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges the President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President of the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. Secretary of State for the need to adopt a Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church calls to affirm and remind the church through the Council of Bishops, United Methodist Communications and the General Board of Church and Society, the position of The United Methodist Church regarding the rights of refugees, immigrants, and undocumented persons to seek a better life in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon local churches to seek ways to welcome, assist, and empower the refugee, immigrant, visitors, and undocumented persons in their neighborhood, and to denounce the persecution of the sojourner in the United States as prejudicial and racist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to request that immediately upon adoption by the North Carolina Annual Conference 2010, the Secretary of the North Carolina Conference will send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President of the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Secretary of State, the North Carolina Governor, the North Carolina General Assembly and all the local United Methodist churches in its area.

Respectfully submitted by **The Committee on Refugees and Immigration and The Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church.**