

## Global Migration Sunday Advocacy Statement

“Human migration is as old as human history. Individuals, families, tribes, and nations have been on the move since the days of Abraham and Sarah and before...Today, migration is a critical international and at times a pressing national issue; a matter of last resort and no other choice for millions of human beings.” (2016 Book of Resolutions, #6028).



Our Book of Resolutions speaks to the current crisis of global migration and how we, as United Methodists, understand and respond to it.

Nearly one percent of the world’s population—or over 65 million people—is forcibly displaced in the world today. Whole families and entire communities have been forced to move because of hunger and poverty, lack of economic opportunity, persecution, war, conflict and terror. Forced migration, in all its forms, is a denial of human dignity and a violation of human rights.

Recognizing that we as a denomination are “global in vision, mission and ministries,” The United Methodist Church names global migration as a priority issue. Following “a biblical mandate for justice and a commitment to the future of the church,” we see the migrants among us and our responsibility to welcome those in need (2016 Book of Resolutions, #6028).

Radical hospitality, rooted in our biblical understanding of God’s abundant love and provision, helps us to imagine a world of plenty, rather than scarcity, and a world of welcome, rather than fear. Jesus directly calls us to care for others, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me” (Matthew 25:38, 40). The Apostle Paul echoes this call in Hebrews 13:2, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

May the words of our Church and the call of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul inspire and lead us to actions of welcome and support for migrants across the world.

### Three Things You Can Do:

- Urge your government and elected officials to adopt policies for just and hospitable welcome of refugees and migrants. Advocate for just and expeditious processing of refugee applications and compassionate treatment for all migrants, regardless of country of origin or religion.
- Learn more about the state of global migration. Do a group reflection on what you learn, and discover local ways to connect and help. Engage the Bible and our Social Principles and Book of Resolutions in these reflections.
- Help migrants and refugees integrate into a new culture. Help them address psychosocial issues, including traumas associated with forced migration.

*Advocacy Statement guided by the Social Principles and the Book of Resolutions, and prepared by the General Board of Church and Society.*

