

What Faith Groups Say about Immigration Reform

American Baptist Churches USA

From the Old Testament our discussion is shaped by God's constant admonition to Israel as to how she is to treat the stranger in her midst: "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" (Leviticus 19:34). Furthermore, we are reminded of Micah 6:8 which says, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

In the New Testament, the greeting of Christ, "Fear not," (Matt 10:31, Luke 12:32, John 14:27b) is a powerful antidote to the fear that so often marks conversations such as this with any number of viewpoints. Likewise the story of the Good Samaritan and Jesus' description of the final judgment are critical to our perspective.

'And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? 39 And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' (Matt 25:38-40)

Indeed, we believe these are texts that challenge us in the current reality regarding immigration, and further, we believe they ask us to search deeply what it means to hear James when he writes to Christian communities, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well." (James 2:8)...

Since the turn of the twentieth century, American Baptists have been in the forefront of welcoming immigrants into our country and into our churches. As a result we have been profoundly reshaped by God in our makeup. No one racial/ethnic group holds majority membership any longer in the American Baptist Churches, USA. God has woven us into a coat of many colors. Consequently, in congregation after

congregation, we have undocumented persons worshipping with us as beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. This very personal face of the undocumented in our midst reminds us that they are part of the dialogue and not just an object of it.

Excerpted from "Letter Addressing Immigration and Immigration Reform," May 14, 2010
www.abc-usa.org/WhoWeAre/Missions/ImmigrationLetter/tabid/484/Default.aspx

Catholic Church

The United States Catholic Bishops Conference (USCCB) believes that meaningful immigration reform must properly balance the right to migrate and the right to regulate migration. Thus, the USCCB opposes "enforcement only" immigration policies because they lack proper accommodation of the right to migrate. Instead, the USCCB supports "comprehensive" immigration policies that pair valid enforcement laws with fair and generous legalization measures. The U.S. Catholic Bishops have outlined various elements of their proposal for comprehensive immigration reform. The key elements of comprehensive reform advocated by the Bishops are:

Earned Legalization: An earned legalization program with a path to citizenship would require unauthorized workers to work for several years, take English courses, and pay a fine in order to participate in the program. Such a program would help stabilize the workforce, promote family unity, and bring a large population "out of the shadows," as members of their communities.

Enforcement: The Bishops support the legitimate and important role of the United States government in enforcing immigration law at the border and in the interior. The Bishops also believe that by replacing illegal migration with legal migration, law enforcement will be better able to focus upon those who truly threaten public safety: drug and human traffickers, smugglers, and would-be terrorists. Any

enforcement measures must be targeted, proportional, and humane.

Future Worker Program: A worker program to permit foreign-born workers to enter the country safely and legally would help reduce illegal immigration and the loss of life in the American desert. Any program should include workplace protections, living wage levels, safeguards against the displacement of U.S. workers, and family unity.

Family-based immigration reform: It currently takes years for family members to be reunited through the family-based legal immigration system. This leads to family breakdown and, in some cases, illegal immigration. Changes in the family-based immigration should be made to increase the number of family visas available and reduce family reunification waiting times.

Addressing Root Causes: Congress should examine the root causes of migration, such as wage inequities and the lack of job opportunities in sending countries, and seek long-term solutions. The antidote to the problem of illegal immigration is sustainable economic development in sending countries. Ideally, migration should be driven by choice, not necessity.

Restoration of Due Process Rights: Due process rights taken away by the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) should be restored, particularly the use of judicial discretion in deportation proceedings.

Excerpted from Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008
www.usccb.org/mrs/legal.shtml

Conservative Judaism

For a significant portion of Jewish history, we have been strangers and non-citizens in the countries in which we resided. Biblically, Abraham left his home to find a better life in Canaan and Moses recognized this fact as he named his son Gershom, “for I was a stranger in a strange land” (Exodus 2:22). For centuries and in dozens of countries, we have sought the hospitality of a multitude of peoples, sometimes

finding acceptance but more frequently oppression and rejection. Even within the past century, Jews have suffered at the hands of the Nazis, Soviet Russia, and the Ethiopians just to name a few. Today, we are fortunate to feel at home in North America and are truly part of the nations’ characters. The Torah knew that after people achieve success and become full citizens of a country, their natural impulse is to forget that they were strangers. That is why we are constantly reminded that, “You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19) and that, “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” (Leviticus 19:33-34). We are commanded to treat the resident alien with dignity and we must, therefore, assure that all people in this country seeking a better life can find it here, just as we have.

In 2005, USCJ [United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism] supported the "Interfaith Statement in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform." It asked the government to enact immigration legislation that included the following reforms and values:

- An opportunity for hard-working immigrants who are already contributing to this country to come out of the shadows, regularize their status upon satisfaction of reasonable criteria and, over time, pursue an option to become lawful permanent residents and eventually United States citizens
- Reforms in our family-based immigration system to significantly reduce waiting times for separated families who currently wait many years to be reunited
- The creation of legal avenues for workers and their families who wish to migrate to the U.S. to enter our country and work in a safe, legal, and orderly manner with their rights fully protected
- Border protection policies that are consistent with humanitarian values and with the need to treat all individuals with respect, while allowing the authorities to carry out the critical task of identifying and preventing entry of terrorists and dangerous criminals, as well as pursuing the legitimate task of implementing American immigration policy
- While we support the right of the government to enforce the law and protect the national security

interests of the United States, we recognize that our existing complex and unworkable immigration system has made it nearly impossible for many immigrants - who seek to support their families or reunite with loved ones - to achieve legal status. Reforming the immigration system to address this reality would allow the U.S. government to focus its enforcement efforts on real threats that face all Americans - citizens and immigrants alike.

Excerpted from a United Synagogue Resolution Implementation Packet, "Immigrants and Immigration," 2007
www.uscj.org/images/Immigrants_and_Immigration.pdf

Council on American-Islamic Relations, Greater Los Angeles Area

Islam promotes social justice, equality and the rights of workers. The Prophet Muhammad preached that no one is a true believer until they love for others what they love for themselves.

Given that our religious beliefs exhort us to help reduce the suffering of others, American Muslims support the call for comprehensive immigration reform that would, among other things, create a path to citizenship for immigrants earned through working, paying taxes and learning English; keep families intact; regulate wages and working conditions to protect workers from being exploited; and create measures that safeguard the labor rights of both immigrant and non-immigrant workers.

We have a broken immigration system: the fact that there are an estimated 11-12 million undocumented workers currently residing in the United States, reflects that reality. Providing people who are not engaged in criminal activity a chance to correct their status and live with dignity and respect is a first step in fixing our broken system. The last thing we need in America is to have over 12 million undocumented people living on the margins and being exposed to abuse, whether it is economic abuse, sexual exploitation or domestic violence. Our strength as a

nation is derived from our compassion toward our most vulnerable members.

Statement by Hussam Ayloush, Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Greater Los Angeles Area, July 2010

Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church, in its commitment to render hospitality to those who are most vulnerable, calls on the United States Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform. The passage in Arizona of the toughest anti-immigrant law in the country demonstrates the need for action at the federal level. In an open letter last Friday the Bishop of Arizona, the Rt. Rev. Kirk Smith, expressed that "today is a sad day in the struggle to see all God's people treated in a humane and compassionate manner (...) With the Governor's signing of SB 1070, it seems that for now the advocates of fear and hatred have won over those of charity and love. Arizona claims to be a Golden Rule State. We have not lived up to that claim."

The lack of fair and humane immigration reform opens the door to misguided and divisive state and local attempts to address immigration enforcement. We urge Congress to provide a solution to a broken immigration system that separates families, spreads fear and keeps millions living in the shadows. Every day, members of our congregations see the unacceptable consequences of our broken immigration system. We urge the Senate and House to enact bipartisan immigration reform that reunites families, protects the rights of all workers, and provides an opportunity for undocumented immigrants to earn legal status.

As Christians, we are called to embrace the stranger and to find Christ in all who come to us in need. The Episcopal Church is committed to working to reform our immigration system. As Bishop Smith reminded us, "We will continue to work as hard as we can to defeat this law and to work toward just and fair laws that protect the rights of all human beings. We all know that our immigration system is broken, but it

cannot be fixed by scape-goating the most vulnerable of those among us."

With strong leadership in Congress, we are confident we can solve the broken immigration system. We encourage members of Congress to join faith leaders to stand up for immigration policies that renew the dignity and human rights of everyone.

Statement of the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations, April 29, 2010
www.episcopalchurch.org/79425_121894_ENG_HTM.htm

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

In 1998, the ELCA adopted a message on immigration that reiterated long-standing Lutheran commitments to both newcomers and just laws that serve the common good. Its core conviction was that "hospitality for the uprooted is a way to live out the biblical call to love the neighbor in response to God's love in Jesus Christ." Two biblical references guided the message's direction: 1) "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God" (Leviticus 19:34) and 2) "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). In Jesus of Nazareth, the God who commands us to care for the vulnerable identities with the human stranger — the person unknown and regarded with suspicion who stands on the receiving end of both welcome and hospitality and rejection and resentment. Not cited in the 1998 message but also relevant is Romans 13:1-7 and related Lutheran interpretations of the role and authority of government....

In light of current immigration laws, practices, and policy debates; their impact on immigrant communities and this country as a whole; and existing ELCA theological and moral commitments, this church commits itself to the following actions, balancing humanitarian, labor, and security issues:

1. Reunite families and integrate the marginalized...
2. Protect the rights of people at work...

3. Establish just and humane enforcement...
4. Revitalize refugee protection and integration...
5. Address root causes of forced migration...

Excerpted from a social policy resolution adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its November 2009 meeting.
www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Resolutions/Comprehensive-Immigration-Reform.aspx

Hindu American Foundation:

In 2006, the Hindu American Foundation signed an interfaith statement on immigration reform. The statement calls for legislation that supports regularization of existing workers upon satisfaction of reasonable criteria, reduced waiting times for reunification of separated families, legal avenues for workers and their families who wish to migrate to the U.S. and border protection policies that treat all individuals with respect while also allowing authorities to prevent entry of terrorists and dangerous criminals.

Swaminathan Venkataraman, member of Hindu American Foundation's Executive Council:
 "There is a need for a fair and equitable immigration legislation that respects the God-given dignity of every individual and his family while also protecting America's economic and national security interests. Hindus are one of the most highly educated and prosperous immigrant communities in the US and we desire that the enormous opportunities that this nation affords should remain open to immigrants in [the] future."

www.hinduamericanfoundation.org/media/pr/20060324_immigration

Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation (MAS Freedom)

Muslims, who make up some 20% of the global population, have been involved in immigration issues since the earliest days of Prophet Muhammad and the

Hijrs (migration) of Muslim believers who fled Arabia and took refuge in what is now Ethiopia. Migration, in our historical experience, is a necessary response to the oppression of populations within nations. We believe that immigrants, wherever they are found, should be treated with fairness and equity, and should enjoy the protection of their neighbors while upholding the obligation to be law-abiding and productive people within the boundaries of their new environments.

As a nation of migrants, we call on all moral people in the United States to recognize both the need for comprehensive reform in our national immigration laws as well as the value of the labor and the enormous contributions made by immigrants to America, regardless of their status under American law.

Statement by Ibrahim Ramey
Human and Civil Rights Program Director
Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation (MAS Freedom) July 2010

National Association of Evangelicals

Discussion of immigration and government immigration policy must begin with the truth that every human being is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28). Immigrants are made in the image of God and have supreme value with the potential to contribute greatly to society. Jesus exemplifies respect toward others who are different in his treatment of the Samaritans (Luke 10:30-37; John 4:1-42). [...]

Motivated by the desire to offer a constructive word for the country's complicated immigration situation and guided by the Scripture, the National Association of Evangelicals calls for the reform of the immigration system. We believe that national immigration policy should be considerate of immigrants who are already here and who may arrive in the future and that its measures should promote national security and the general welfare in appropriate ways. Building upon biblical revelation concerning the migration of people and the values of justice and compassion championed

in *For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility*, we urge:

- That immigrants be treated with respect and mercy by churches. Exemplary treatment of immigrants by Christians can serve as the moral basis to call for government attitudes and legislation to reflect the same virtues.
- That the government develop structures and mechanisms that safeguard and monitor the national borders with efficiency and respect for human dignity.
- That the government establish more functional legal mechanisms for the annual entry of a reasonable number of immigrant workers and families.
- That the government recognize the central importance of the family in society by reconsidering the number and categories of visas available for family reunification, by dedicating more resources to reducing the backlog of cases in process, and by reevaluating the impact of deportation on families.
- That the government establish a sound, equitable process toward earned legal status for currently undocumented immigrants, who desire to embrace the responsibilities and privileges that accompany citizenship.
- That the government legislate fair labor and civil laws for all residing within the United States that reflect the best of this country's heritage.
- That immigration enforcement be conducted in ways that recognize the importance of due process of law, the sanctity of the human person, and the incomparable value of family.

Resolution of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), representing 40 denominations, scores of evangelical organizations and millions of American evangelicals, adopted October 8, 2009.

www.nae.net/resolutions/347-immigration-2009

Presbyterian Church USA

2. Affirm that our denomination, mindful of the current realities and threats to our belief system, not sway from our solidarity with, and pledge of service to, all of our brothers and sisters regardless of their race, creed, color, nationality, or residency status.
3. Affirm those Presbyterian congregations and presbyteries that are already standing alongside immigrants and are actively engaged in acts of compassion, empowerment, and advocacy.
4. Challenge each Presbyterian congregation and presbytery to embrace a comprehensive approach to “advocacy and welcome” for immigrants that includes, at the very minimum:
 - a. an opportunity for hard-working immigrants who are already contributing to this country to come out of the shadows, regularize their status upon satisfaction of reasonable criteria, and, over time, pursue an option to become lawful permanent residents and eventually United States citizens;
 - b. reforms in our family-based immigration system to significantly reduce waiting times for separated families who currently wait many years to be reunited;
 - c. the creation of legal avenues for workers and their families who wish to migrate to the U.S. to enter our country and work in a safe, legal, and orderly manner with their rights fully protected; and
 - d. border protection policies that are consistent with humanitarian values and with the need to treat all individuals with respect, while allowing the authorities to carry out the critical task of identifying and preventing entry of terrorists and dangerous criminals, as well as pursuing the legitimate task of implementing American immigration policy.
 - e. a call for living wages and safe working conditions for workers of United States-owned companies in other countries;
 - f. a call for greater economic development in poor countries to decrease the economic desperation, which forces the division of families and migration.

5. Affirm the right of each congregation, presbytery, and our denomination as a whole, to speak out clearly and constantly to the media and others regarding the PC(USA)’s call to serve all those in need and to stand with the oppressed, our refusal to be deferred from this mandate, and our willingness to break laws that forbid us to live out our responsibilities to God and to our brothers and sisters who do not have U.S. residency documents...

Excerpted from the “Presbyterian Policy on Immigration” of the 217th General Assembly (2006) on Advocacy and Welcome for All Immigrants <http://oga.pcusa.org/immigration/pdf/immigration-resolution-2006.pdf>

Reform Judaism

As a community of immigrants and refugees with a long history of sojourning in foreign lands, American Jews have a unique responsibility to ensure that the rights of non-citizens are protected by our nation’s immigration policy. Just as our ancestors were permitted to reunite their families and resettle refugees from their lands of origin to their newly adopted homelands, today’s immigrant communities deserve similar opportunities.

THEREFORE, the Union for Reform Judaism resolves to:

1. Call for a comprehensive and generous United States immigration policy that treats all immigrants justly and reflects the basic principles of human dignity and human rights;
2. Oppose enforcement-only legislation while maintaining support for effective and humane border security to curb illegal immigration as part of a comprehensive immigration policy;
3. Support legislation providing for pathways to earned citizenship for undocumented immigrants that reflect fair and compassionate eligibility standards;
4. Call on the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement units act within the framework of U.S. law, which requires court-ordered

- search warrants, due process, and humane treatment of detainees and their families.
5. Call for Congress and the Administration to adopt:
 - a. Fair and expeditious processes to deal with the problems of family separation and backlogs in resolving applications for citizenship, asylum, and visas,
 - b. Provisions that would allow undocumented immigrants in the process of applying for legal status to remain in the U.S.;
 6. Support measures to clarify that enforcement of federal immigration law is the exclusive province of the appropriate federal legal authorities by:
 - a. Opposing efforts by non-federal entities and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law;
 - b. Opposing efforts by non-federal entities to establish punitive regulations or legislation targeting undocumented immigrants;
 7. Support legislation that recognizes the contribution of immigrants to the U.S. economy and labor force by providing increased opportunities for immigrants to work legally in the United States through temporary worker visas;
 8. Support legislation and policies that address the causes of illegal immigration including legislation that:
 - a. Increases the number of visas allowing unskilled laborers to work in the U.S. legally;
 - b. Increases guest worker programs and temporary worker visas; and
 - c. Addresses the U.S. policies that contribute to the flow of immigrants;
 9. Oppose the exploitation of immigrants in the workplace and encourage employers to maintain the highest safety standards and provide fair and just compensation for all workers; ...

Excerpted from the resolution “Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform in the United States,” submitted by the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism to the 69th Union for Reform Judaism General Assembly Adopted – December 14, 2007
http://urj.org/about/union/governance/reso/?syspage=article&item_id=1917

Southern Baptist Convention

WHEREAS, As citizens of the heavenly Kingdom and members of local congregations of that Kingdom, we also have a biblical mandate to act compassionately toward those who are in need (Matthew 25:34-40), love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39), and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us (Matthew 7:12); and...

WHEREAS, The federal government has not only failed to control the borders but failed in its responsibility to enforce the immigration laws, not only with regard to the individuals who are here illegally, but also with regard to the employers who knowingly hire them; and

WHEREAS, There are reportedly 12 million immigrants and counting who are living and working in America without legal status, many of whom have children who are American citizens by birth; and

WHEREAS, Many of these hardworking and otherwise law-abiding immigrants have been exploited by employers and by others in society, contrary to James 5:4; now, therefore, be it ...

RESOLVED, That we urge the federal government to enforce all immigration laws, including the laws directed at employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants or who are unjustly paying these immigrants substandard wages or subjecting them to conditions that are contrary to the labor laws of our country; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge citizen Christians to follow the biblical principle of caring for the foreigners among us (Deuteronomy 24:17-22) and the command of Christ to be a neighbor to those in need of

assistance (Luke 10:30-37), regardless of their racial or ethnic background, country of origin, or legal status; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage Christian churches to act redemptively and reach out to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all immigrants, to start English classes on a massive scale, and to encourage them toward the path of legal status and/or citizenship;

Excerpted from the resolution “On the Crisis of Illegal Immigration,” adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in June 2006
www.sbc.net/resolutions/amResolution.asp?ID=1157

Unitarian Universalist

UUSC calls on Congress to avoid partisan politics and to expeditiously enact comprehensive immigration reform that will protect the human rights of the 10 to 20 million undocumented immigrants who live in the United States. Such legislation must also include a clear and reasonable process through which they can attain the rights and protections that they need to participate fully in our society. Channels for lawful immigration need to be generated in proportion to the demand for labor, and policy reforms should include provisions for guaranteeing due process and for improving the wages and working conditions of low-wage immigrant workers.

At the same time, legislative reform is not the only avenue to upholding the rights of immigrants. It is also necessary to promote community development through grassroots education and leadership, and to combat structuralized racism, classism, and sexism to remove the barriers that prevent people from fully realizing their rights.

UUSC stands in solidarity with the American people, and immigrant communities and their advocates as they work toward achieving specific policy objectives that flow out of the principles we enunciate. We also stand proudly with those Unitarian Universalist churches that, with the support of the Unitarian Universalist Association, have courageously declared

their willingness to extend support and sanctuary to individuals who may be unjustly targeted for deportation.

Excerpted from the UUSC Statement on Immigration, adopted October 16, 2007
www.uusc.org/content/uusc_statement_immigration

United Church of Christ

As Christians we are called to love our neighbors and provide hospitality to strangers. *“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.”* Leviticus 19:33-34

Therefore we call for comprehensive immigration reform legislation to establish a safe and humane immigration system, consistent with our values, that:

- creates a process for undocumented immigrants to earn legal status and eventual citizenship;
- upholds family unity as a priority of immigration policies;
- protects immigrant and native-born workers in their workplaces;
- aligns border and internal enforcement policies with humanitarian values and due process protections
- provides every detainee with access to their attorney, family, and faith leader, and ensures humane treatment in accord with state, federal, and international law; and
- allows undocumented young adults who grew up in this country to work, pay in-state tuition for higher education, and join the military, and be eligible for legal status and eventual citizenship (the DREAM Act).

We also call for international policy reforms to alleviate the hardships that make emigration necessary.

- Cancel onerous and excessive debt held by poor countries.
- Renegotiate trade and investment treaties, starting with the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In addition, the General Synod has repeatedly called for changes in our policies and treatment of immigrants including:

- more humane border policies and the end of unjust treatment and harassment of immigrants both at the border and throughout the country,
- the development of international programs and policies to alleviate poverty and the oft-accompanying sense of desperation which propels people to emigrate; and
- policies that allow immigrant workers and their families to live and work in a safe, legal, orderly and humane manner.

UCC's Immigration Coordination Committee
www.ucc.org/justice/immigration/CIR-principles.html

United Methodist Church

Our calling as followers of Jesus the Christ is to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors and to advocate for justice on their behalf. The United Methodist Church affirms the inherent dignity, value, and human rights of all immigrants regardless of their legal status. We acknowledge that all nations have the right to secure their borders, but the primary concern for Christians is the welfare of immigrants and communities.

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church is committed to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that is humane and effective and that upholds the human and civil rights of immigrants. We affirm President Obama for his

leadership in moving the immigration agenda to the forefront of public discourse and decision making.

We call upon President Obama and all Congressional leaders to support comprehensive immigration reform that would:

- Provide a pathway to citizenship for immigrants.
- Reunify immigrant families that have been separated by immigration itself or due to work place raids and ensuing indefinite detentions and deportations.
- Increase the number of visas for short-term workers to come into the United States to work in a safe, legal, and orderly way.
- Extend legal protection to all workers who come to stay for a certain period of time as well as for those who stay permanently including the right to bargain for higher wages, to protest against poor working conditions, and to preserve their human rights as workers, be they documented or undocumented.
- Eliminate privately-operated detention centers, which are not regulated by the federal or state governments, and end all indiscriminate raids.

Just and humane immigration reform will put an end to much of the human suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters, bringing them out of the shadows of society, and integrating them into society in ways that will bring their gifts and hard work to bear as together we strive to build communities of justice.

Excerpted from the "Statement on the U.S. Immigration Situation" Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church May 2009

http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5409

Recommended Further Reading on Immigration from a Faith Perspective

Books:

[*God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*](#)

by Peggy Levitt (New Press)

[*Religion and Social Justice for Immigrants*](#)

edited by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (Rutgers University Press)

[*God's Heart Has No Borders: How Religious Activists Are Working for Immigrant Rights*](#)

by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (University of California Press)

[*Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate*](#)

Matthew Soerens and Jenny Hwang (InterVarsity Press)

[*Trails of Hope and Terror: Testimonies on Immigration*](#)

By Miguel A. De La Torre (Orbis Books)

[*And You Welcomed Me: Migration and Catholic Social Teaching*](#)

Edited by Donald Kerwin and Jill Marie Gerschutz (Lexington Books)

Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants

David Bacon (Beacon Press)

Immigration Reform and America's Unchosen Future

Otis L. Graham (Authorhouse)

Online Resources:

For You Were Once a Stranger (Interfaith Worker Justice) <http://www.iwj.org/template/page.cfm?id=26>

Interfaith Immigration Coalition Resources <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/index.php/section/Resources/>

Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (Sojourners)

Welcoming a Stranger Toolkit http://www.sojo.net/action/alerts/CCIR_toolkit.pdf

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Parish Toolkit <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/parish-kit.html>