



Baltimore-Washington Conference

The United Methodist Church

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25: 34-40, NSRV)

Resources for Faithfully Standing with the Vulnerable

"As United Methodists we must live the gospel we proclaim. For such a time as this we must preach the courage of our Wesleyan convictions, teach a theology that welcomes the stranger, and advocate a witness that stands with the marginalized and oppressed. I invite all congregations who want to become sanctuary churches to contact your district leadership about the training and resources available to do so. This is also a time for deep Bible study and reflection. Your conference staff can suggest resources for your use, and the names of persons who can help facilitate your studies.

Now is the time for us to stand on the side of justice. In the words of Dr. King, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Now is the time for us to stand on holy ground."

-excerpted from Bishop LaTrelle Easterling's Statement on Jan. 31, 2017

FOR CONGREGATIONS WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE CHURCH HAS ISSUED A PRO-IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE STATEMENT:

1. What The United Methodist Church believes about immigrants:
<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/the-social-community#immigration>
2. Take the *40 Days of Scripture and Prayer Challenge*. The *I Was a Stranger* website contains a



scripture-based video (with Max Lucado, Bill Hybels, etc.) and *40 Days of Scripture and Prayer Challenge* resources to help individuals and congregations “seek God’s heart through prayer and reading one Bible passage a day related to God’s heart for immigrants.” <http://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com/iwasastranger/>

3. Tips for leaders who need healing and peace to rebuild community in a polarized political climate: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/moving-on-after-election-day-tips-for-finding-healing-and-peace>

FOR CONGREGATIONS WHO WANT TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES TO ENGAGE:

1. [Learn more](#) about immigration, including becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Community from the General Board of Church and Society. <https://umc-gbcs.org/issues/immigration>



2. Give people a chance to opt-in to being a part of a movement. One way of doing this is through the **Matthew 25 Movement Pledge** which simply states: “I pledge to protect and defend the vulnerable in the name of Jesus.” This movement is a result of a gathering of Christian organizers from around the US in November 2016. Learn more here: <http://faithrootedorganizing.net/matthew-25-movement-pledge/>
3. Explore the resources from **Faith Rooted Organizing** (including a low quality training video): <http://faithrootedorganizing.net/matthew-25-resources/>
4. Get access to the free **Matthew 25 Toolkit** by taking the pledge at Sojourners: <https://sojo.net/matthew-25-pledge>. This 6 page PDF includes the following topics:
 - a. Why Immigrants Might Need Our Protection and Defense
 - b. Defending and Building Local Safety Nets
 - c. Using Local Safety Nets
 - d. Emergency Support
 - e. Allies (in sending and receiving cities)
 - f. How to listen to God’s call to support immigrants...together
5. Capitol Hill UMC is involved in Refugee Ministries and found the information at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service’s website very concrete and helpful: <http://llrs.org>.

6. The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) is a partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform that reflects our mandate to welcome the stranger and treat all human beings with dignity and respect. Coalition members work together to advocate for just and equitable immigration policies, educate faith communities, and serve immigrant populations around the country.
<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/about/organizations/>
7. The American Immigration Council was established in 1987 and works to strengthen America by honoring our immigrant history and shaping how America thinks about and acts toward immigrants and immigration. Immigration impact data is here:
<http://immigrationimpact.com/>
8. **Take action** per your discernment.

FOR CONGREGATIONS WHO WANT TO BECOME A PART OF THE SANCTUARY MOVEMENT:

The Sanctuary Movement is an ecumenical effort to protect immigrant families who face workplace discrimination or unjust deportation. There are several sites that are dedicated to this.



1. [Read more](#) about the sanctuary movement in The United Methodist Church: <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/united-methodist-churches-offer-sanctuary>.
2. This is the site quoted in the article written by UM Communications on the sanctuary movement. There is a very detailed 15 page word document that explains what to do to become a Sanctuary congregation.
<http://www.uua.org/immigration/witness/partners/newsanctuary>
3. The national new sanctuary movement and resources can be found at:
<http://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org/>
Includes a map of local initiatives. There is a newly forming coalition in the DMV. If you want your church to be included in this coalition learn more at:
<http://sanctuarydmv.org/>