

Immigration Team Purpose & Mission

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Our Twofold Purpose

- We engage local congregations to live into radical hospitality of our gospel message and become Immigrant Welcoming Congregations.
- We speak prophetically to the church and the wider world on issues impacting migrants. We use the rich voice of our scripture, General Synod pronouncements and resolutions, and Conference resolutions as our guide.

When an immigrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:34 NRSV

Minnesota Conference UCC

122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 323
Minneapolis, MN 55404



IMMIGRATION TEAM

Minnesota Conference
United Church of Christ

United Church of Christ On Immigration Justice

A strong voice for dignity

Both the MN Conference and the General Synod have affirmed resolutions calling for changes in immigration policy. The General Synod has passed 5 since 1995. These cover areas such as

- affirming the dignity and self worth of immigrants
- border justice
- water at the border
- more humane US Immigration Policy
- ending migrant deaths
- protecting the human rights of immigrants

Immigrant Welcoming Congregations: a call to covenant

We believe God calls us to become Immigrant Welcoming Congregations. We can become Immigrant Welcoming Congregations in many ways:

- Understanding our faith and UCC teachings
- Building relationships through face to face encounters
- Learning about root causes for immigration
- Having a book study or watching movies or documentaries
- Prayerful action and advocacy
- Affirming a covenant

Engagement & Education

There are a variety of topics the Immigration Team can provide education on. Here are a few:

What are the root causes of forced migration?

Many people are concerned about why so many migrants and refugees are coming to this country. Most think it is solely because of economic reasons. Learn more about how the US policies affect what is happening in Central America causing economic instability and systemic violence forcing people to flee.

Family detention and private prisons: why should we care?

How have prisons become the new way to shackle persons of color? Learn about how for profit prisons treat immigrants inhumanely and how “the bed quota” maintains beds for detention, whether we use them or not.

The Bible & immigration: what does it say?

A Lot, actually. In this session we give a brief overview of themes and verses that give us a framework for engaging this topic.

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, ... [who] executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving [them] food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10:17-18

What is happening at US-Mexico border?

Stronger, longer, taller walls? Increased border security? What is actually going on there? Learn about border patrol, the wall, drones, helicopters, detention, and what happens to migrants who are picked up by the border. Learn about the costs of these things and the effectiveness of these things in cutting down on the number of migrants entering the US.

What do Immigrants Bring to Minnesota?

Do undocumented immigrants pay taxes, contribute to social security, get free health care, etc when they come here? Are they a drain on our system? Find out what you often don't hear about it terms of what they add to our economy. Learn about the facts of jobs and taxes that they contribute to MN and the US in general. Learn why the MN Chamber of Commerce wants to see Comprehensive Immigration Reform become a reality in this country.

Contact & Resources

uccmn.immigration@gmail.com
<http://uccmn.org/ministries/justice-peace/immigration/>

UCC JWM Immigration Page
http://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration

Find many resources, including how to become an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation