

UMC Approach

Scripture: Migrants in the Bible

- God's command to embrace the foreigner in our midst

Leviticus 19:33-34: "When an [foreigner] resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the [foreigner]. The [foreigner] who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the [foreigner] as yourself, for you were [foreigners] in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Matthew 25:35: "For 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."

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Scripture: Migrants in the Bible

Ephesians 2:21-22

“So then you are not longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.”

Philippians 3:20

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”

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Scripture: Migrants in the Bible

Genesis 1:1-2 (Over the sea)

Exodus 2:14-25 (Reuel in Midian)

Ruth 1:1-9 (Naomi and her family)

Exile: major & minor prophets

Matthew 2:13-23 (Joseph, Mary and Jesus feeling)

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Tradition: Christian witness of sanctuary as safe place for sojourners and persecuted people

- 0-300 CE
- 1800s Underground Railroad
- 1980s Safe Sanctuary movement

Book of Resolution & Social Principles

- Welcoming the Migrant to the US #3281
- DREAM ACT #3164

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Tradition: Sacraments

Baptism

“Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”

Holy Communion

“Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.”

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Reason: Social responsibility

- War, natural disasters, persecutions.
- Evil economic systems (NAFTA & CAFTA):
Consumerism produces abusive labor conditions and destroys the land.
 - Governments like the US' have colonized half of the world impacting people's lifestyles, natural resources and yet reject migrants when they cross "borders."

UMC APPROACH

Experience: Migration as a natural phenomenon.

- 272 million international migrants
- 79.5 million people forcibly displaced
- 45.6 million IDP's (Internally Displaced People)
- 26 million refugees

IMMIGRANTS IN THE US

- Foreign born 44.4 million
- Temporary Protection Status 411,000 from 10 countries
- Refugees resettled- average 75,000 from 1980-2016.
 - FY2020 Refugee admissions goal: 18,000 (set by President in consultation with Congress)
 - Actual 2020: About 8,000
 - FY2021 Refugee admissions goal: 15,000
- 340,000 Affirmative Asylum applications (Sept 2019)
- Remain in Mexico-65,000 as of April 2020

IMMIGRANTS IN THE US (continued)

- Undocumented- about 11-12 million
 - Of this group, 10.6 million are in the US workforce
 - 5 million are considered “Essential Workers”
- Children held in detention in 2019- 69,550
- Dreamers/DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) current 700K, eligible 1.2 M
 - Over 200,000 Essential Workers
- F-M Visas International Students 400,000
- Pending Naturalization 200,000

TECHNICAL DEFINITION: DACA/DREAMER

On June 15, 2012, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it would not deport certain undocumented youth who came to the United States as children. Under a directive from the DHS secretary, these youth may be granted a type of temporary permission to stay in the U.S. called “deferred action.” The Obama administration called this program Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

National Immigration Law Center

To be eligible for DACA, applicants must:

- Have entered the United States before their 16th birthday.
- Be currently in school, a high school graduate or be honorably discharged from the military.
- Be under 31 years of age
- Not have been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or otherwise pose a threat to national security.

usimmigration.org



CONN: CONNECTICUT
MASS: MASSACHUSETTS
NH: NEW HAMPSHIRE
RI: RHODE ISLAND
VT: VERMONT

Questions & Answers