

STANDING RESOLUTION - 3

2017 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 1 **TITLE:** Welcoming the Migrant in Our Midst
2 **SPONSORING GROUP:** Sanctuary Taskforce of the First United Methodist Church of Eugene
3 **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev. Adam Briddell, Associate Pastor, Eugene 1st United Methodist Church
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 1376 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97401
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** adambriddell@gmail.com
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 202-255-8369
7 **This petition is: A New Standing Resolution**
8 **AMENDED IN YELLOW, ADD IN BOLD, DELETE IN STRIKE-OUT**
9 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 28 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN**
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12 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

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14 The vast majority of people now living in Oregon and Idaho are the descendants of immigrants who
15 migrated here seeking safety, security and prosperity. Today, more than 390,000 people in Oregon,
16 and more than 95,000 people in Idaho, were born outside of the United States.

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18 Regardless of status and documentation, immigrants and refugees sit in our pews and are behind the
19 pulpits of our churches, and they have added to our witness for Christ as we have all dedicated our-
20 selves to the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
21 Immigrants and refugees are making immeasurable contributions to our cultural, economic and civic
22 life.

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24 We remember that the writer of Leviticus commands the love of the immigrant, who "shall be to you
25 as the citizen among you" (Leviticus 19:33-34);" and that early in Jesus' life, he was a refugee to Afri-
26 ca fleeing persecution and violence in his homeland (Matthew 2:13-15). Jesus could not be more
27 clear, that the nations would be judged on the basis of the way they fed the hungry, clothed the na-
28 ked and cared for prisoners (Matthew 25:31-46). And our Social Principles call us to "we recognize,
29 embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God
30 (United Methodist Book of Discipline, III. The Social Community ¶162 H Rights of Immigrants)."

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32 The Oregon-Idaho Conference of The United Methodist Church, as followers of Jesus, repents of the
33 racism and violence that has been directed toward newly arriving migrants from all parts of the
34 world.

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36 We express our opposition to any immigration policy that excludes refugees solely on the basis of
37 their religion or national origin.

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39 We celebrate the work of our Hispanic Ministry Council and support the formation of an immigration
40 task force by the Conference to help provide guidance to churches seeking to be in ministry to immi-
41 grants in our communities.

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2 We encourage all churches to educate and equip their members to provide hospitality and welcome
3 to migrants and refugees in their communities, and to take further actions and advocacy for just poli-
4 cies after prayer and discernment.

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6 We affirm the ancient right of churches to be sanctuaries for those living in fear for their own safety
7 or the safety of the friends and family, especially our immigrant neighbors who may lack legal status
8 or appropriate documentation.

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10 We call upon our political leaders and policy makers to assure our laws affirm the worth, dignity, in-
11 herent values and rights of immigrants.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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15 **What will this action accomplish?**

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17 Engaging in ministry with immigrants and refugees in our communities increasingly risks confronta-
18 tion with civil authorities, and increasingly requires the willingness to engage in civil disobedience on
19 behalf of vulnerable people in our community. For leaders in the local church who are on the front-
20 lines of these risky, faithful ministries, the support and encouragement of our annual conference is
21 important.

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23 **Why is it important?**

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25 We continue to hear from our immigrant neighbors how fearful they are for their own safety, and
26 the safety of their friends and loved ones. It is vitally important that the Annual Conference encour-
27 age our congregations to be places of safety and sanctuary for our immigrant brothers and sisters,
28 regardless of their status or documentation.

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30 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

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32 This resolution, if adopted by the Annual Conference, will support conference and local leaders in our
33 churches as they work for and with immigrants and refugees in our communities.

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35 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?** No cost other than staff and print for
36 publication.