

A Christian Call for Immigration Reform

We join our voices together as Christian leaders in Minnesota to urge our state's congressional representatives to work together to pass just and compassionate immigration reform that provides a roadmap to citizenship for undocumented people of good moral character, creates a temporary worker program, promotes family reunification, ensures due process of law for all people, secures our borders, and strengthens our society.

The Bible speaks clearly and repeatedly of God's concern for those who, for many reasons, have had to leave their homeland and settle elsewhere. Our Lord Jesus Christ himself was one such migrant, fleeing Palestine for the safety of Egypt. The scriptures guide the Christ-follower toward principles that should inform both the interpersonal ways that we interact with our immigrant neighbors and the public policies that we support.

Therefore, because of our commitment to following what God has revealed to us in Scripture, we are driven to address the needs of immigrants in our country. As leaders we commit to treating immigrants with love, respect, and mercy in our churches and organizations, while also urging our elected representatives to work towards a bipartisan solution on immigration that:

1. Upholds the human dignity of all persons and work against any injustice that compromises the dignity of immigrants;
2. Promotes the importance of family unity and gives priority to the reunification of families;
3. Provides more functional legal mechanisms for temporary workers that protects both the immigrant workers and US Citizen workers;
4. Establishes an equitable process towards earned legalization for foreign nationals of good moral character;
5. Follows due process in the enforcement of immigration laws and does so with respect for human dignity and the rule of law.

To be sure, we recognize the sovereign right of nations to secure their borders and make decisions about the identity and number of immigrants allowed into their country. We also believe that our government has a duty to consider immigration's impact on our domestic economy and national security.

As priests, pastors, and other religious leaders we have, however, experienced first-hand that our nation's current immigration system fails to reflect our nation's commitment to the values of human dignity, family unity, and respect for the rule of law that define us as Americans. A broken system needs to be fixed for reasons of justice for all.

Today there exists both the urgency and opportunity to pass comprehensive reform. This historic moment is even more compelling because of the way in which it can be a symbol of people coming together to achieve real solutions to difficult social problems. In this way, it can be model for future action that transcends partisanship and brings diverse communities together.

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