RC2009-12

Memorial on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WHEREAS, Christians of various denominations are working together to see fair and humane immigration reform enacted in Congress because we share moral and theological principles that compel us to love, care for, and seek justice for the stranger among us; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of national origin or citizenship status, are made in the "image of God" and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, there is a responsibility to love and show compassion for the stranger among us; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are our neighbors, both literally and figuratively, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves and show mercy to neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, we oppose unjust laws and systems that harm and oppress people made in God's image, especially the vulnerable; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call for the Communication Services unit to provide ELCA members with information about comprehensive immigration reform that includes the five elements listed below;

- Enforcement initiatives that are consistent with humanitarian values;
- Reforms in our family-based immigration system that reduce waiting times for separated families to be reunited;
- A process for all immigrant workers and their families already in the U.S. to earn citizenship upon satisfaction of specific criteria;
- An expansion of legal avenues for workers and families to enter our country and work in a safe and legal manner with their rights and due process fully protected;
- Examining solutions to address the root causes of migration, such as economic disparities between sending and receiving nations; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly call on the President, the U.S. Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney for Minnesota to suspend all immigration raids until comprehensive immigration reform is enacted.

Author: Rev. Patrick Cabello Hansel, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Adopted by: Partnership Table on March 19, 2008
Contact: Rev. Luisa Cabello Hansel, Latino Strategy, 612-275-2814