

1 **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE**
2 **IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE PROTECTION OF THE**
3 **HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS**

4 **Approved As Amended**

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6 **A Resolution of Witness**

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8 **TEXT OF THE MOTION**
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10 WHEREAS, immigration law in the United States (U. S.) is a federal, not a state, responsibility, and

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12 WHEREAS, America’s current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not
13 reflect our denominational or national values; and

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15 WHEREAS, worker visa programs must comply with U.S. wage, hour, and other labor standards,
16 including portability of visas so that workers can change jobs; and maintain the ability for workers to
17 petition for permanent residency; and

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19 WHEREAS, enforcement of immigration law should affirm our nation’s core legal values including due
20 process, transparency, fairness, accountability, and proportionality; and

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22 WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that both respects
23 our nation’s right to control its borders and the human rights of immigrants, and

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25 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United States has prospered because of the
26 contributions of hardworking migrants, immigrants, and aspiring citizens; and keeping families together
27 not only is inherent to our faith values, but is also good for the economy because families are a base of
28 support that increase worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and, there is a need to reduce the
29 processing times of three to twenty years that keep families separated from their loved ones; and

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31 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has many DREAM Act eligible youth who were brought here
32 as children, know this country as their only home, were educated here, and have shown their
33 contribution to our congregations and communities; and

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35 WHEREAS, immigration enforcement has deported a record 409,849 in 2012 fiscal year including
36 95,000 parents of U.S. citizens in 2011; and

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38 WHEREAS, citizenship is a symbol of full societal membership and social participation that should be
39 encouraged and supported with just and fair laws and procedures; and

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41 WHEREAS, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform must include a realistic pathway to
42 citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying, aspiring citizens who live in the U.S. (including young
43 people who have grown up in the United States) if they meet reasonable requirements; and

45 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the
46 future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation’s labor needs and is structured to
47 protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers; and
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49 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
50 urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that
51 addresses (1) earned legalization with a path to citizenship; (2) updated future flow of immigrants for
52 workers and unification of families; (3) enactment of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien
53 Minors (DREAM) Act as part of a comprehensive immigration reform; (4) protection of workers’
54 rights, including agricultural workers; (5) placement of humanitarian values at the center of enforcement
55 policies; (6) protection of refugees and migrant survivors of violence; and (7) ensure that newly
56 documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the
57 Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of Operation Streamline, stopping of the construction of the
58 southern border fence, and limiting additional immigration border patrol agents on the southern border.
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60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the President of the
61 United States, U.S. Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The Twenty-ninth General Synod
62 of the United Church of Christ encourages General Synod delegates to deliver a copy of this resolution
63 to members of their respective (state) General Assembly, Governor of the state, (state) Speaker of the
64 House, and President of the (state) Senate.
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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
67 encourages congregations to further engage in educational work on immigration from a faith
68 perspective, participate in border delegations and work towards making your congregation an Immigrant
69 Welcoming Congregation.
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71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
72 calls upon United Church of Christ members to take action to help pass compassionate comprehensive
73 immigration reform by (1) getting involved with a local coalition, (2) forming relationships with
74 immigrants, (3) joining advocacy delegations with your local Representative or Senator and (4)
75 mobilizing congregants for vigils, actions, marches, interfaith services and other local or national
76 activities on this issue.
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78 **FUNDING**

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80 The funding for the implementation of the Resolution (or Other Formal Motion) will be made in
81 accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.
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83 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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85 The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United
86 Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.