

1 **Resolution Calling on the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ and**  
2 **its Congregations to Covenant as Immigrant Welcoming Congregations.**

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4 **The name of the submitting body is the Central Pacific Conference Justice and Witness**  
5 **Ministry Team.**

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7 WHEREAS the International Association for Refugees has stated, "The world is in the midst of a  
8 long-term refugee crisis;" and

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10 WHEREAS thousands of refugees and migrants come from throughout the world to the United  
11 States seeking safety, security, freedom, and opportunity; and

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13 WHEREAS our immigrant brothers and sisters continue to suffer as they fear raids, deportation,  
14 and seeing their families torn apart; and

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16 WHEREAS the Jewish and Christian traditions honor this text: "When an immigrant resides with  
17 you in your land, you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall  
18 be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were  
19 immigrants in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34, adapted from NRSV); and

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21 WHEREAS Jesus says, "'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other  
22 commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:31, NRSV); and

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24 WHEREAS Jesus further says in Matthew 25 of those who will receive the kingdom, "When I  
25 was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to  
26 drink. When I was a stranger you welcomed me..." (Mathew 25:35 Contemporary English  
27 Version)

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29 WHEREAS migrants bring us as offerings their stories and experiences, dreams and hopes,  
30 energy and skills; and

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32 WHEREAS our new neighbors experience difficulties adjusting to life in a new country,  
33 difficulties such as language barriers, culture shock, a sense of loss, and isolation; and

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35 WHEREAS the welcome and support immigrants receive helps in the building of safe  
36 communities and future prosperity; and

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38 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ (UCC) declares "No matter who you are or where you  
39 are on life's journey, you are welcome here;" and

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41 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ National Collaborative on Immigration calls on all of its  
42 members and congregations to become active "Immigrant Welcoming Congregations and  
43 Communities" and work to humanize the immigrant in the United States and normalize  
44 migration as a global human right.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.ucc.org/justice\\_immigration](http://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration).

46 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of  
47 Christ declares itself to be an "Immigrant Welcoming Conference." It encourages the Conference  
48 and its congregations to facilitate the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants: 1) by  
49 encouraging and enabling local congregations to become immigrant welcoming; 2) by  
50 developing internal policies for accountability, and 3) by influencing public policy on local, state  
51 and national levels. The Conference Justice & Witness Ministry Team will make available and  
52 maintain information about how to become immigrant welcoming on the Conference Justice &  
53 Witness Ministry web site and provide assistance and support to congregations.

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55 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Pacific Conference will join ongoing work  
56 at the state and local level through active participation in advocacy groups, such as IMIrJ (The  
57 Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice) in Oregon and others, and seek similar involvement  
58 in Washington and Idaho coalitions. The Conference will join ongoing work at the national level  
59 through the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration.

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61 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on adoption of this resolution the Conference Minister  
62 is to forward it, along with a letter explaining who the Central Pacific Conference is and the  
63 adoption process, to all elected state and local legislators, and issue a press release to all media in  
64 the Conference area with the same explanation and text of the resolution.

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66 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Central Pacific Conference also urges  
67 the General Synod 2017 to declare our denomination "Immigrant Welcoming."

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69 FINANCIAL IMPACT: Existing resources from the Central Pacific Conference Justice and  
70 Witness Ministry Team budget will fund support for this resolution.