

Undocumented Neighbors Task Force
S GA Annual Conference
Resolution for BOR, March 1, 2019

The Undocumented Neighbors Task force has met and will continue to meet through the 2017 – 2018 Conference year in efforts to accomplish the Charge of the Task force:

Charge: "...a specific task force for the purpose of developing a strategy to:

1. provide education to the members of the South Georgia Conference, both clergy and laity, about the history of immigration throughout the centuries and human and civil rights concerning our undocumented members, and
2. encourage members of our South Georgia United Methodist churches who so choose to engage in concrete Wesleyan works of piety and mercy—seeking justice, ending discrimination and addressing the needs of the poor—on behalf of our undocumented neighbors.

"...that due consideration be given to the cost and duration of such efforts to educate and engage this important issue.

"...that...those entities relating to social issues, such as Advocacy Discipleship Team, Connectional Ministries, and the Cabinet, along with pastors, congregations, and individual members who share or want to be in ministry, unite to promote education and works of mercy in a number of ways, including:

1. Identify or develop a curriculum that teaches our churches the Biblical foundations regarding aliens and foreigners and examines our Wesleyan roots and Social Principles in a way that promotes working on behalf of undocumented neighbors among us;
2. Identify, recruit, and equip churches, clergy and individual members to imagine and strategize, in partnership with our undocumented neighbors, social action and advocacy opportunities in which all interested parties may engage;
3. Provide for the Conference published tools, both print and online, in collaboration with the Connectional Table, including pertinent publications to educate and update on specific issues related to the struggles of "the foreigner among us" at local, state, and federal levels;
4. Build bridges with other religious and non-religious organizations in our region to cooperate in these efforts and so multiply our effectiveness in this endeavor;

5. Form a research and work group, in cooperation with Global Ministries and any pertinent agency, to promote mission cooperation in the countries of origin of many of our undocumented neighbors to support and create development in these communities to alleviate the problems that cause our undocumented neighbors to flee their beloved countries in the first place.”

The task force has discussed and validated the justification to continue to meet through the 2019 – 2020 Conference year.

We request for the continual approval of the resolution by the Conference.

Listed below are the milestones attained by our task force during the 2018 – 2019 Annual Conference year:

- **Participated in Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Training**, which is introduction training to cultural competency in an effort to serve and live together in the life of the faith community. The IDI training is a tool to accomplish missional goals and to increase and map out individual and organizational developmental paths, and to make Disciples of Christ within and outside the church.
- **Developed Undocumented Neighbors Task Force Resource Booklet** for the South Georgia Conference for people in ministry settings, the Church and Conference. The Task Force joins with others around the world in addressing the issues of immigration with the Church and Society. This guide offers resources of printed materials, links to websites, as well suggestions to start conversations designed to encourage dialogue to help people around the issues of our Undocumented Neighbors, and to provide the educational and awareness around the history of immigration and the human and civil rights concerning our Undocumented Neighbors. The resource booklet is intended to help guide people to a deeper understanding of the issues around our Undocumented Neighbors and identify resources within the United Methodist Church.
- **Authentic Conversations Webinars** around our Undocumented Neighbors that engage people in courageous conversations about issues around our Undocumented Neighbors, immigration and migration in our Conference and communities that are not part of the United Methodist Church.

Financial Recommendation: We request funding to continue through the 2019 – 2020 Conference year.