

UNDOCUMENTED NEIGHBORS

Resources for Raising Awareness &
Increasing Understanding

*Developed by the South Georgia
Annual Conference Undocumented
Neighbors Taskforce*



“There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

— GALATIANS 3:28



THE SOUTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES, Advocacy
Phone: 888-266-7642
www.sgaumc.org/advocacy

Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce: Elaine Chavez, David Diaz, Brett Maddocks,
Daniel Medina, Ivelisse Quinones, Isaac Salgado, Angelyn Tripp, Moises Velez,
Earnestine Campbell, Staff/Liaison

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Charge	5
The Social Principles	6
Social Community	6
World Community	7
Social Creed	8
What can you do?	9
What can your local ministry do?	10
What is S. GA Conference doing?	11
What can our Conference Ministry do?	12
Book Discussion	13
Liturgical Resources	14
Reflection	17
Bibliography	18
Resources	27

Introduction

Welcome to the Undocumented Neighbors for people in all ministry settings document. This resource has been developed by the South Georgia Annual Conference Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce, which joins others around the conference in addressing the prevalence and problem of Undocumented Neighbors throughout our church and society.

This guide offers resources, including links to websites and videos as well as suggestions for participatory conversations designed to encourage dialogue to help people identify, understand, and embrace the reality of our Undocumented Neighbors. These resources are intended to help guide people to a deeper understanding of the resources/beliefs of The United Methodist Church in response to this problem.

The misunderstanding around our Undocumented Neighbors is fueled by deeply rooted attitudes and beliefs that cause unacceptance and bias. These resources are offered to promote conversations and self-reflection necessary to transform these harmful beliefs. We hope you will find the information helpful as you move forward in awareness and understanding of the realities of our Undocumented Neighbors throughout the Church and the South Georgia Conference. This ministry is essential for the transformation of the world.

What does Undocumented Neighbors mean?

The term Undocumented Neighbors refers to ‘undocumented immigrants’ that are foreign nationals residing in the U.S. without legal immigration status. It includes persons who entered the U.S. without inspection and proper permission from the U.S. government and those who entered with a legal visa that is no longer valid, also known as unauthorized or illegal immigrants (<https://definitions.uslegal.com/u/documented-immigrant/>). These persons often flee their detrimental conditions in their own countries for a safe and better chance of human survival and enter into the country because of their plight.

Leviticus 19:33-34: “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” **Matthew 25:35:** “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Undocumented Neighbors Task Force Charge

Charge:

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

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; 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;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. 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.”
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 Social Principles

Social Principles & Social Creed

“Taking an active stance in society is nothing new for followers of John Wesley. He set the example for us to combine personal and social piety. Ever since predecessor churches to United Methodism flourished in the United States, we have been known as a denomination involved with people's lives, with political and social struggles, having local to international mission implications. Such involvement is an expression of the personal change we experience in our baptism and conversion. The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society.”

Book of Resolutions, 2016, Pgs. 23 and 24

www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions

Preamble

We, the people called United Methodists, affirm our faith in God our Creator and Father, in Jesus Christ our Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, our Guide and Guard. We acknowledge our complete dependence upon God in birth, in life, in death, and in life eternal. Secure in God's love, we affirm the goodness of life and confess our many sins against God's will for us as we find it in Jesus Christ. We have not always been faithful stewards of all that has been committed to us by God the Creator. We have been reluctant followers of Jesus Christ in his mission to bring all persons into a community of love. Though called by the Holy Spirit to become new creatures in Christ, we have resisted the further call to become the people of God in our dealings with each other and the earth on which we live.

We affirm our unity in Jesus Christ while acknowledging differences in applying our faith in different cultural contexts as we live out the gospel. We stand united in declaring our faith that God's grace is available to all, that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Grateful for God's forgiving love, in which we live and by which we are judged, and affirming our belief in the inestimable worth of each individual, we renew our commitment to become faithful witnesses to the gospel, not alone to the ends of earth, but also to the depths of our common life and work. To help guide our thinking and acting about how we live in, and are engaged in ministry in the world, The United Methodist Church has created statements to guide the church in its efforts to create a world of justice.

¶160 The Social Principles, PREAMBLE

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016

THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY

The rights and privileges a society bestows upon or withholds from those who comprise it indicate the relative esteem in which that society holds particular persons and groups of persons. We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights.

¶162 The Social Principles
The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016

162.H. Rights of Immigrants - We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.

¶162.H The Social Principles
The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016

THE WORLD COMMUNITY

A) Nations and Cultures

As God affirms individuals in their diversity, so are nations and cultures. We recognize that no nation or culture is absolutely just and right in its treatment of its own people, nor is any nation totally without regard for the welfare of its citizens. The Church must regard nations as accountable for unjust treatment of their citizens and others living within their borders. While recognizing valid differences in culture and political philosophy, we stand for justice and peace in every nation.

¶165 VI. THE WORLD COMMUNITY
The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016

Our Social Creed

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

¶161 The Social Principles, ¶ 166 Social Creed
The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church

What can you do?

When John Wesley began his work in England, it quickly led to the formation of the United Society and the classes. Wesley established “only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these societies: ‘a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins.’”

These early faith communities would be defined as “a company of [people] having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation. But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits.”

It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, first: by doing no harm; second: by doing good; and third: by attending upon all the ordinances of God. These three principles have become known as “The General Rules of the Methodist Church” and are commended for as a guide for every member of the United Methodist Church. (§ 102 DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND OUR THEOLOGICAL TASK, 54, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*)

- Refuse to be a silent bystander when you hear or see someone say or do something that could be bias. Intervene! How are we holding one another accountable for behavior?
- Respect and affirm persons in such a way that they know they will be accepted and included. One way to practice and cultivate a culture of respect and affirmation is by supporting the non-dominant culture through ministry. Resources to help in your local ministry are available at www.sgaumc.com/advocacy or contact the chairperson of the Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce or Staff person.
- Encourage your local church to utilize the Bibliography and Resource page in this Guide.
- The simplest and most profound act of Christian response is this: listening to those who have suffered. By listening to stories, we can learn. And by learning, perhaps we as local church communities can take proactive steps to understanding our Undocumented Neighbors.

“The simplest and most profound act of Christian response is this: listening to those who have suffered.”

What can your local ministry do?

- Host church related education/awareness events and programs
- Provide resources from your community in your church setting
- Encourage education within your local ministry about the policy and process
- Make it an agenda item at your meetings and Charge Conference, and Training
- Have conversation in small group settings (including the youth) and speak from the pulpit regarding awareness.
- ¶161 Book of Discipline and the Social Principles. Consider utilizing the videos, Resource Guide, Book and other Resources.
- Resolution and Charge proclamations
- Holistic biblical ethics for the Undocumented Neighbors
- Refer to Resolution and Charge proclamations for talking points (see www.sgaumc.org/advocacy)
- Use respectful language
- Promote awareness in bulletin occasionally
- Offer studies for those that may be Undocumented and those that are seeking more understanding and being in relationship with those
- Institute a ministry program at your church for awareness and teaching
- Post Resources

What is the S. GA Conference doing to answer the call and acceptance of the Immigration/Undocumented Neighbors Resolution?

Here is what the Conference has done:

- Voted to form the South Georgia Annual Conference **Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce** at the 2017 Annual Conference.
- **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. Recommends for the Conference and Church to participate.
- **Developed Undocumented Task Force Resource Guide** 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, videos, 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 guide 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.
 - The UN TF Resource Guide includes an extensive **Bibliography** that can be used in various ways such as to guide small and large groups, training, and awareness around our Undocumented Neighbors.
- **Authentic Conversations Videos** around our Undocumented Neighbors that engage people in courageous conversations about issues around our Undocumented Neighbors, immigration and migration in our Conference and communities within and outside of the United Methodist Church.
- The UN TF continues in efforts to fulfill the charge and to implement resources and be available as a source.

What can our Conference ministry do?

- Encourage education within your local ministry about the Undocumented Neighbors. Make it an agenda item at your next Charge Conference, and other meetings.
- Have conversation in small group settings (including youth), workshops, and speak from the pulpit regarding Undocumented Neighbors and this resource.
- Consider utilizing the Undocumented Resource Guide and Authentic Conversation Video from the South Georgia Conference and other Resources – see Bibliography and Resource Sections (pgs. 18 – 27).
- Reference Undocumented Neighbors Resolution and Charge
- Holistic biblical language/ethics about inclusivity and the Undocumented Neighbors
- *Each in Our Own Tongue* (a history of Hispanic United Methodism) and *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother* -- use resources a Book Study/Discussion (see Pg. 13).
- Post flyers informing and educating and resources as shared from the South Georgia Conference and UMC General Agencies

Book Discussion

Suggested Book Resource for Discussion from the Undocumented Neighbors Bibliography: *Each in Our Own Tongue* (a history of Hispanic United Methodism) and *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite With His Mother* (see pgs. 22 and 21, respectively)

The Undocumented Neighbors status is spiritually overwhelming for those persons – let's get to know their stories as the community of faith. In the suggested Book Resource, you are invited to be a receptive and an empathetic reader of these stories, opening yourself up to reflection, self-evaluation, and planning for action within your church and society. Below is a discussion guide to participate in on your own, in a small group or the church. The Discussion can be designed as a study series addressing question(s) weekly or based on chapters covered from the book.

1. What were the various ways Undocumented Neighbors are vulnerable?
2. What common threads do you notice between the stories of the Undocumented Neighbors and the Foreigner?
3. How do they survive or there any help from agencies? How were they broken and disregarded?
4. What (and who) are protected?
5. What changed has occurred or need to occur in the church around the Undocumented Neighbors?
6. What feelings emerged for those who have live this status?
7. What roles do we play?
8. Who has the power to shape the narrative about the nature of these relationships? How is power being used?
9. How did people receive stories of the Undocumented Neighbors? In what ways are they helpful? What was not helpful?
10. What kind of threats do they live?
11. What feelings did this book evoke in you? What insights did you gain?
12. How do we feel called as our responsibility for helping those in need?

Liturgical Resources

Prayer of Healing

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ:
who lived among us and knew human pain and suffering;
who called all who were burdened and heavy laden and gave them rest;
who healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners;
who cast out demons and showed us the way to you through faith;
who took our suffering upon himself,
that we might be cleansed of our sins and receive eternal life.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-service-of-healing-i>

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather for worship as children of God.

People: We come to remember who and whose we are.

Leader: We gather for worship to be renewed in our faith.

People: We come with hearts open to receive God's love.

Leader: We gather for worship to catch a vision of what might be.

People: We come ready to change what is.

Leader: We gather for worship in gratitude for all we have been given.

People: With thanksgiving, we lift our voices in songs of praise.

www.gnjumc.org/.../06/Enough_Call-to-Worship.docx

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

The World Methodist Social Affirmation 886

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us,
 Who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit,
 present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

**We believe;
God, help our unbelief.**

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom;
 In the upholding of human dignity and community.
 in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;
 in each of self-giving on behalf of others;
 in the abundance of God's gifts
 entrusted to us that all may have enough;
 in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory to be God on high;
and on earth, peace.**

The World Methodist Social Affirmation 886, UMC Hymnal

A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,
calls us by grace
*to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one
in divine love for the world.*

Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God deplors violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.
And so shall we.

*Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.*

Reflection

1 John 3:18 “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” When we turn to our Bibles, we realize that those Undocumented Neighbors stories have been hidden in plain sight for millennia (Job 31:32, Jeremiah 22:3, 1 Peter 4:9). As Christians, as United Methodists, we must listen to the Spirit of Truth, and respond with integrity. We are able to bravely enter into this process of listening, and faithful response because of the power and love of Christ in which our salvation, our identity as beloved, is assured.

1. What actions can we take as a local church to see those that are vulnerable, care for the broken-hearted, and seek care?
2. Are we living up to the value commitments of The United Methodist Church as stated in The Social Principles and The Book of Resolutions (see page) as a local church? How might we hold our Annual Conference accountable to these commitments and policies?
3. How can we build trust with one another?
4. Do we respect, care and love those that are different?
5. How does our church talk about Undocumented Neighbors? Is harmful or helpful? And, for whom?
6. Do we compel people to in unity or divisiveness? Is there ways to be accountable in becoming a Beloved Community?
7. What might we say to someone who is behaving or speaking inappropriately? How are we holding one another accountable for our actions? Have we rehearsed how to intervene?
8. Have we hosted a training for our congregation focusing on maintaining upholding the dignity of all people?

Undocumented Neighbors

Recommended Bibliography

for Immigrants Inclusivity

South Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (SGAUMC)
Task Force (TF) on Undocumented Neighbors (UN)
As approved by the SGAUMC Annual Conference (2017)

Recommended Resources

Books

A Many Colored Kingdom: Multicultural Dynamics for Spiritual Formation.
(Conde-Frazier, Elizabeth; Kang, S. Steve; Parrett, Gary A.)

How do ethnic and cultural diversity affect spiritual formation? The authors of *A Many Colored Kingdom* explore Christian formation and teaching in the church, with a particular focus on intercultural and interethnic relationships. Well-qualified to speak on issues of diversity, the authors describe relevant aspects of their own personal journeys; key issues emerging from their studies and teaching germane to race, culture, and ethnicity; and teaching implications that bring right practice to bear on church ministry. A final chapter contains a conversation among the authors responding to one another's insights and concerns.

A Nation of Immigrants, John F Kennedy. (Kennedy, John F. *A Nation of Immigrants*. Reprint ed.: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2018.)

Throughout his presidency, John F. Kennedy was passionate about the issue of *immigration* reform. He believed that America is *a nation* of people who value both tradition and the exploration of new frontiers, people who deserve the freedom to build better lives for themselves in their adopted homeland.

A Promised Land, a Perilous Journey: Theological Perspectives on Migration,
Daniel G. Groody and Gioacchino Campese (Groody, Daniel G. and Campese, Gioacchino. *A Promised Land, a Perilous Journey: Theological Perspectives on Migration*, Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2008.)

A Christian theological interpretation of the border reality is a neglected area of immigration study. The foremost contribution of *A Promised Land, A Perilous Journey* is its focus on the theological dimension of migration, beginning with the humanity of the immigrant, a child of God and a bearer of his image. The nineteen authors in this collection recognize that one characteristic of globalization is the movement not only of goods and ideas but also of people. The crossing of geographical borders confronts Christians, as well as all citizens, with choices: between national security and human

insecurity; between sovereign national rights and human rights; between citizenship and discipleship.

Alabadle! Hispanic Christian Worship, Justo L. González. (González, Justo L., ed. *Alabadle! Hispanic Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.)

By looking at the wide variety of Hispanic Christian worship that exists within the Hispanic community, *Alabadle!* highlights the cultural, generational, and denominational elements that comprise the spectrum of Hispanic worship. Justo L. Gonzalez and seven other contributors provide an insightful look into the variety of worship styles that exist among numerous church traditions including Assemblies of God, United Methodist, Catholic, American Baptist, Presbyterian, and Disciples of Christ. And yet, in the midst of this variety, is a common thread of excitement - about worship and about the gospel! Anyone interested in exploring worship, music, and liturgy styles from a particular Hispanic perspective will find *Alabadle!* A valuable learning tool.

Being Latino in Christ (finding wholeness in your ethnic identity) Orlando Crespo. (Crespo, Orlando. *Being Latino in Christ: Finding Wholeness in Your Ethnic Identity*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2003. Accessed June 14, 2018.)

In his new *book Being Latino in Christ*, Orlando Crespo writes with clarity and sensitivity as he addresses the daunting task of defining what it means to be a second-generation *Latino* in the U.S. and, more important, a *Latino* who has chosen the road less traveled of following *Christ* by embracing and even celebrating. In this book he helps you to reflect on your own voyage of self-understanding and on what it means to have a mixed heritage from the days of the original Spanish Conquest to the present. His straightforward approach also takes him to what the Bible says about ethnic identity--about a people who were often oppressed by more powerful cultures. He helps you to see how Jesus' own humanity unfolded in the context of a people who were considered to be inferior.

Border of Death, Valley of Life: An Immigrant Journey of Heart and Spirit, Daniel G. Groody. (Groody, Daniel B., *Border of Death, Valley of Life: An Immigrant Journey of Heart and Spirit*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2007.)

Groody argues that spiritual as well as physical cures are needed for people who risk death in an inhospitable desert, who undergo the psychological death of leaving their families and culture and who experience alienation in a society often rejecting them in a language they do not understand. (*The Catholic Telegraph*) *Border of Death, Valley of Life* is an engaging and thoughtful look at the physical and spiritual struggles of Mexican immigrants. Through personal stories, the reader walks in their footsteps, experiences their emotions and fears, and observes the beginning of their spiritual renewal. (Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor of California)

Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible, R. Carroll, M. Daniel). (Carroll R., M. Daniel. *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.)

Immigration is one of the most pressing issues on the national agenda. In this accessible book, an internationally recognized immigration expert helps readers think biblically about this divisive issue, offering accessible, nuanced, and sympathetic guidance for the church. As both a Guatemalan and an American, the author is able to empathize with both sides of the struggle and argues that each side has much to learn.

Each in our own tongue (a history of Hispanic United Methodism) Justo L Gonzalez. (González, Justo L., ed. *Alabadle! Hispanic Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.)

This book offers information and insights into the often-forgotten chapters of the historical contributions of Hispanics to United Methodism. The authors provide an overview that spans several hundred years of Hispanic culture and influence. Eight chapters including a chronology and bibliography are included.

En La Lucha: In the Struggle Elaborating a Mujerista Theology, Ada Isasi-Diaz. (Isasi-Diaz, Ada Maria. *En La Lucha: In the Struggle Elaborating a Mujerista Theology*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004.)

Ten years ago *En la Lucha* offered the first systematic presentation of mujerista theology – the liberating religious reflection of Hispanic women – giving voice to the everyday struggles and insights of Hispanic women and offering a new form of contextual theology. Since that time, Isasi-Díaz's work has been widely praised, studied, and emulated in Hispanic and other contextual theologies, and she is widely acknowledged to be mujerista theology's major spokeswoman. This anniversary edition places the central thrust of *mujerista* theology in the ongoing context of North American society, brings a heightened sense of the specificity and complexity of Hispanic identity, and reflects further on the global implications of the North American Hispanic context.

Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother, Sonia Nazario. (Sonia Nazario, *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother*. New York: Random House, 2006.)

An astonishing story that puts a human face on the ongoing debate about immigration reform in the United States, now updated with a new Epilogue and Afterword, photos of Enrique and his family, an author interview, and more—the definitive edition of a classic of contemporary America. Based on the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, one for feature writing and another for feature photography, this page-turner about the power of family is a popular text in classrooms and a touchstone for communities across the country to engage in meaningful discussions about this essential American subject. *Enrique's Journey* recounts the unforgettable quest of a

Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States.

Fiesta Cristiana: Recursos Para La Adoración = Resources for Worship, Joel N. Martínez, and Raquel M. Martínez. (Martínez, Joel N., and Raquel M. Martínez. *Fiesta Cristiana: Recursos Para La Adoración = Resources for Worship*. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 2003.)

Fiesta Cristiana is a bilingual collection of worship services for use in Hispanic congregations and other congregations developing ministries for Hispanics.

Good News in the Barrio (Prophetic witness for the Church) Harold J Recinos. (Recinos, Harold J. *Good News from the Barrio: Prophetic Witness for the Church*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.)

In a world divided by race, ethnicity, gender, violence, and hate, Harold Recinos's *Good News from the Barrio* explores the ways in which the *good news* of the gospel is at work in Latino *barrios*. He challenges Christians to listen to the gospel in these contexts and offer a prophetic witness to the nation and the church. He challenges Christians to listen to the gospel in these contexts and offer a prophetic witness to the nation.

Very provoking reading. Review by Ivelisse Quinones, Undocumented Taskforce.

I was a stranger (a Christian theology of hospitality) Arthur Sutherland. (Sutherland, Arthur. *I Was a Stranger: a Christian Theology of Hospitality*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.)

Sutherland offers a passionate plea to recover and rediscover hospitality, and to respond to the divine appeal to welcome the *stranger*. Therein lies the central concern of the *book*: that hospitality is not simply the practice of a virtue but is integral to the very nature of Christianity's position toward God, self, and the world.

I felt convicted and challenged as I was reading it. Review by Ivelisse Quinones, Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce.

Immigration and the Bible (guide for a radical welcoming) Joan M Maruskin. (Maruskin, Joan M. *Immigration and the Bible: a Guide for Radical Welcome*. New York: Women's Division, The General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, 2012.)

Leader's Guide: **Immigration and the Bible: A Guide to Radical Welcome** has been written to provide a faith-based guide for building hospitable communities of ... a *book* of hope, help, guidance and direction for responding to sisters and brothers across the world who come to a land seeking safety, sanctuary and sustenance.

An excellent resource to follow. Review by Ivelisse Quinones, Undocumented Neighbors Taskforces.

Jesus in the Hispanic Community: Images of Christ from Theology to Popular Religion Recinos, Harold & Hugo Magallanes. (Magallanes Harold & Hugo: *Jesus in the Hispanic Community: Images of Christ from Theology to Popular Religion*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.)

This first-of-its-kind collection reveals U.S. Latino/a theological scholarship as a vital terrain of study in the search for better understanding of the varieties of religious experience in the United States. While the insights of Latino/a theologians from Central and South America have gained attention among professional theologians, until now the role of U.S. Latino/a theology in the formation of North American theological identity has been largely unacknowledged. Nonetheless, the four-centuries old Latino/a presence in the United States has been forming a rich, creative, and distinctively North American Latino/a Christology.

Jesus Is My Uncle: Christology from a Hispanic Perspective, Luis G. Pedraja. (Pedraja, Luis G. *Jesus Is My Uncle: Christology from a Hispanic Perspective*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.)

In *Jesus Is My Uncle*, Luis Pedraja examines Christology and the doctrine of God from a Hispanic perspective, emphasizing the role played by language and experience. This volume provides a unique perspective and promotes a deeper understanding of Hispanic theology and, by inference, other theologies as well. Living in the cultural borderlands, an important aspect of the Hispanic experience is the languages used: Spanish and English. Pedraja examines how the way Hispanics speak about Jesus and God in Spanish creates different theological imagery than speaking in English does.

Just Hospitality: God's Welcome in a World of Difference, Letty M. Russell. (Russell, Letty M. *Just Hospitality: God's Welcome in a World of Difference*. Edited by J Shannon Clarkson and Kate M. Ott. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.)

In this book, theologian Letty Russell redefines the commonly held notion of hospitality as she challenges her readers to consider what it means to welcome the stranger. In doing so, she implores persons of faith to join the struggles for justice. Rather than an act of limited, charitable welcome, Russell maintains that true hospitality is a process that requires partnership with the "other" in our divided world. The goal is "just hospitality," that is, hospitality with justice. Russell draws on feminist and postcolonial thinking to show how we are colonized and colonizing, each of us bearing the marks of the history that formed us.

Learning from the Stranger: Christian Faith and Cultural Diversity Paperback, David I. Smith. (Smith, David. *Learning from the Stranger: Christian Faith and Cultural Diversity Paperback*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009.)

Cultural differences increasingly impact our everyday lives. Virtually none of us today interact exclusively with people who look, talk, and behave like we do. David Smith here

Undocumented Neighbors Resource for Awareness and Understanding

offers an excellent guide to living and learning in our culturally interconnected world. / Learning from the Stranger clearly explains what "culture" is, discusses how cultural difference affects our perceptions and behavior, and explores how Jesus' call to love our neighbor involves learning from cultural strangers. Built around three chapter-length readings of extended biblical passages (from Genesis, Luke, and Acts), the book skillfully weaves together theological and practical concerns, and Smith's engaging, readable text is peppered with stories from his own extensive firsthand experience.

Excellent teaching tool for groups and individuals on the interlocking of cultures and humility. Review by Earnestine Campbell, Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce.

Magallanes, Hugo, Ed., Apuntes: Reflexiones Teológicas desde el Contexto Hispano-Latino. SMU Perkins **Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective, Justo L. González.** (González, Justo L. *Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.)

An in-depth look at Christian theology through Hispanic eyes. It weaves the doctrinal formulations of the early church on creation, the Trinity, and Christology into contemporary theological reflection on the Hispanic struggle for liberation. This volume offers a major theological statement from a respected theologian and author. Richly insightful and unique, *Manana* is one of the few major theological works from a Protestant representative of the Hispanic tradition. Justo L. Gonzalez offers theological reflections based upon unique insights born of his minority status as a Hispanic American.

Más Voces: Reflexiones Teológicas de la Iglesia Hispana (bilingual), Luise Pedraja. (Pedraja, Luis, Ed., *Más Voces: Reflexiones Teológicas de la Iglesia Hispana (bilingual)* Abingdon Press, August 1, 2001.)

Written completely in Spanish, this book is a collection of theological reflections from some of the more popular theologians in the Hispanic church. This selection of articles from *Apuntes* will help readers understand the different theological views of Hispanic men and women of the church.

One Body, One Spirit, George A. Yancey. (Yancey, George A. *One Body One Spirit: Principles of Successful Multiracial Churches*. Large ed.: 2012.)

When the church began, an amazing diversity of people from different geographic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds gathered together to confess a common faith in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul cast a vision of one body where Jew and Gentile would worship together in unity. The Revelation to John likewise foreshadows an eternal future where all nations will join together at the throne of the Lamb. As society diversifies, local churches find themselves interacting with people from every tribe and tongue.

Powerful teaching principles for Pastors and Church leaders in becoming and engaging a multiracial church. Review by Earnestine Campbell, Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce.

Our God is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice, Ched Meyers and Matthew Colwell. (*Our God is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice.* Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2012.)

The principle of hospitality and the commandment to welcome the stranger are among the most consistent themes of the Bible. How does that apply to the question of undocumented immigrants in our own country? In recent years the question of immigration has become a target of heated political controversy, one that reaches into nearly every community in the country. How does our biblical faith address this issue? And how should people of faith respond? In alternating chapters the authors of this book address these questions, examining the biblical dimensions of hospitality, sanctuary...

Restoring at-risk communities (Doing it together & doing it right) John M Perkins. (Perkins, John, ed. *Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing It Together and Doing It Right.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1995. Accessed June 14, 2018.)

This is an in-depth how-to manual for those involved in or interested in Christian **community** development among our nation's poor. Dr. Perkins, along with fourteen other urban ministry professionals, shares a wealth of experience in this practical handbook. If you are already in the trenches of rebuilding a desperate **community**, or if you are sensing God's call to such a ministry, this **book** will serve as a compass, a reference tool, and a source of encouragement and wisdom. Filled with practical counsel born from decades of experience on the front lines of **restoration**.

Shift (Helping congregations back into the game of effective ministry) Paul Maynard. (Maynard, Phil. *Shift: Helping Congregations Come Back Into the Game of Effective Ministry.* United States: EMC3, 2013.)

Based on years of research, coaching, and consulting with local congregations this **book** provides helpful, practical methods for developing effective ministry.

Sojourner's Magazine, Strangers in the Land: A Six-Week Devotional Guide on Immigration, the Church, and the Bible, 2008. (To order additional copies go to www.sojo.net). A six-week devotional on immigration, the church, and the Bible by the editors of Sojourners magazine. Every Christian is an "undocumented foreigner"—in the world but not of it. How does this inform the church's voice in the contemporary battle over U.S. immigration laws? With *Strangers in the Land*, you'll never view immigration the same way again. Based on Old Testament scholar M. Daniel Carroll R.'s transformative 2008 book *Christians at the Border*, this six-week devotional and study guide provides the reader a daily excerpt from *Christians at the Border*, a scripture on the same theme, a provocative question, and a prayer.

Great information. Review by Ivelisse Quinones, Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce.

The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2016. Nashville, Tennessee: United Methodist Publishing House, 2016.)

The Book of Resolutions provides models for applying an active faith to daily life in ways that can impact the world around us. The new *Book of Resolutions* contains all current social policies adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Includes positions on more than 200 subjects, organized into seven sections: The Natural World, The Political Community, The Nurturing Community, The World Community, The Social Community, The Economic Community, Other Resolutions.

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016. Nashville, Tennessee: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016.

"The church is a community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redeemed and redeeming fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the church seeks to provide for the maintenance of worship, the education of believers, and the redemption of the world." - From the Preamble to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. The product of over 200 years of General Conferences of the denominations that form The United Methodist Church, the *Discipline* is the current statement of how United Methodists agree to live together.

The Cosmic Race/La Raza Cosmica, José Vasconcelos. (Vasconcelos, José. *The Cosmic Race: a Bilingual Edition*. Johns Hopkins paperbacks ed. Translated by Didier Tisdell Jaén. Race in the Americas. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.)

In this influential 1925 essay, presented here in Spanish and English, José Vasconcelos predicted the coming of a new age, the Aesthetic Era, in which joy, love, fantasy, and creativity would prevail over the rationalism he saw as dominating the present age. In this new age, marriages would no longer be dictated by necessity or convenience, but by love and beauty; ethnic obstacles, already in the process of being broken down, especially in Latin America, would disappear altogether, giving birth to a fully mixed race.

The Wolf Shall Dwell with The Lamb (a spirituality for leadership in a multicultural community) Eric H. F. Law. (Law, Eric H F. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*. Preaching and Its Partners. St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice Press, 1993. Accessed June 14, 2018.)

These groundbreaking works explore how certain cultures consciously and unconsciously dominate in multicultural situations and what can be done about it.

Learn the concept of dominant culture and its implication. Review by Ivelisse Quinones, Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce.

Welcoming Justice (God's movement toward beloved community) Charles March & John Perkins. (Marsh, Charles, and John Perkins. *Welcoming Justice: God's Movement Toward Beloved Community*. Resources for Reconciliation. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2009.)

Welcoming Justice represents the perfect marriage of social *justice* and scholarly reflection. Far too often, those endeavors are not connected, leaving either effort impoverished. Everyone interested in thoughtful and just social change will find this *book* richly rewarding."

Welcoming the stranger: (Justice, Compassion & Truth) Matthew Soerens & Jenny Hwang Yang. (Soerens, Matthew, and Jenny Hwang. *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2009.)

Immigration is one of the most complicated issues of our time. Voices on all sides argue strongly for action and change. Christians find themselves torn between the desire to uphold laws and the call to minister to the vulnerable.

Who Is My Neighbor? Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality, Joyce Carrasco, Ruth Cassel Hoffman, Ngoc-Diep Nguyen. (Carrasco, Joyce, Ruth Cassel Hoffman, Ngoc-Diep Nguyen. *Who Is My Neighbor? Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality*. Nashville, Abingdon, 2015.)

Who Is My Neighbor? Is a field-tested resource through which English speakers of any church and congregation can learn basic Spanish-speaking skills to be able to communicate and provide a welcoming atmosphere to the Hispanic communities surrounding them? The six-session resource developed by the Northern Illinois Conference covers basic conversational Spanish, and simple and easy to follow Spanish-language worship material.

Film

Under the Same Moon, Movie directed by Patricia Riggen

Storyline: UNDER THE SAME MOON (LA MISMA LUNA) tells the parallel stories of nine-year-old Carlitos and his mother, Rosario. In the hopes of providing a better life for her son, Rosario works illegally in the U.S. while her mother cares for Carlitos back in Mexico. Unexpected circumstances drive both Rosario and Carlitos to embark on their own journeys in a desperate attempt to reunite. Along the way, mother and son face challenges and obstacles but never lose hope that they will one day be together again. *Written by Fox Searchlight.*

Resources

South Georgia Annual Conference Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce

www.sgaumc.org/Advocacy

Undocumented Neighbors Taskforce

Resolution

Charge

Authentic Conversation Videos

Resource Guide

Bibliography

Immigration link

www.umcdiscpeship.org

Worship/Liturgical Resources

www.gcorr.org

Religion and Race, Literature, Videos

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016.

¶ 102 Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task, 54.

¶ 166 Social Principles

¶ 162 The Social Principles

¶ 162.H The Social Principles

The Book of Resolutions, 2016, pgs. 23 and 24

www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions

The United Methodist Book of Worship, 1992

Worship/Liturgical Resources

The United Methodist Hymnal, 1989

Worship/Liturgical Resources