

Emergency Resolution of Solidarity with Immigrants and the SWCUCC

The Chicago Metropolitan Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ May 1, 2010

Whereas we are a people of faith who affirm and live by the biblical imperative, “When a migrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the migrant. 34The migrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the migrant as yourself, for you were migrants in the land of Egypt: I am your God.”(Leviticus 19:33-34), and

Whereas we are profoundly disturbed by the passage of SB1070, the harshest anti-immigrant legislation in the country, by the Arizona Legislature. This legislation codifies racial profiling and creates an atmosphere of suspicion, hatred, and scapegoating of immigrants and U.S citizens, and

Whereas Senate Bill 1070 would require law enforcement officials in the state of Arizona to investigate someone’s immigration status if there is “reasonable suspicion” that the person might be undocumented. Those without identification papers, even if they are legal, are subject to arrest. A person can also be arrested if he or she is stopped and is simply with people who are undocumented — even if they are that person's family. Parents or children of “mixed-status families” (made up of legal and undocumented, as many immigrant families are in Arizona, as in our own state) could be arrested if they are found together. A person can be arrested if he or she is “transporting or harboring” undocumented people. Some might consider driving immigrant families to and from church or a doctor's appointment to be Christian ministry — but it will now be illegal in Arizona, and

Whereas on April 24, 2010, the Southwest Conference of the UCC gathered at their Annual Meeting in Sedona, AZ passed a resolution calling for non-compliance with SB1070. They have called upon other conferences and associations of the UCC to pass resolutions and take actions in solidarity with them and our immigrant sisters and brothers.

Therefore we are dedicated to the following actions to demonstrate our solidarity and commitment to our immigrant brothers and sisters who are created equally in the image of God regardless of race, nationality or immigration status.

Therefore be it resolved, the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) of the Illinois Conference (ILC) of the United Church of Christ (UCC) stand in solidarity with the Southwest Conference (SWC) of the UCC and our immigrant sisters and brothers in Arizona and call upon all members and congregations in the CMA to sign the pledge of non-compliance with SB 1070 (www.1070ipledge.net);

Be it further resolved that the CMA support the SWC call for an economic boycott of Arizona until SB 1070 is repealed; calling on all CMA members to use their influence with businesses, professional organizations and other organizations to relocate any and all meetings or conferences to be held in Arizona and to not make any purchase or contract with firms who are head quartered in Arizona;

Be it further resolved that the CMA call its members to Direct action of prayer, study, protests, and civil disobedience for immigrant rights and that the CMA will mobilize our congregations for just and fair Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Be it further resolved that the CMA call on the IL Conference to adopt a similar emergency resolution at its annual meeting June 18-19, 2010.

As people of faith and conscience rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, we hold to our UCC Statement of Faith, in declaring, “You call us into your church...to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil.”

In Solidarity and Service,

Submitted by: Church in Society Committee of the CMA, Wellington Avenue UCC,
St. John UCC, Melrose Park, Individual CMA members (attached)