

WDC Immigration Task Force Survey of Congregations (Press Release)

In late May 2018 the Western District Conference immigration task force sent out a survey to all WDC congregations to ask about their views on immigration in the United States and ways (if any) that they may want to engage with immigration issues in their communities.

- 31/55 Churches responded – 56% response rate
- 96.8% reported being or leaning supportive of legal immigration
- 61.2% reported being or leaning supportive of undocumented immigrants/immigration
- 93.5% reported being or leaning supportive of refugee resettlement to the United States

Some common themes included congregations desiring to practice hospitality within the ever-shifting immigration system and discussions happening in this country. The undocumented status of some immigrants causes complicated feelings in some churches, while others are embracing the Sanctuary church movement.

Respondents had interest in hearing speakers or doing book studies about immigration issues, attending Borderlands learning tours, and learning from workshops on current immigration issues.

Here are a few quotes from the respondents of the survey:

“Our church may have mixed feelings about the act of immigrating without documents, but, once immigrants are here and have established families and roots, our church believes strongly in supporting these individuals as we would any other member of our church or community. Hence, we have become a Sanctuary church.”

“We have a diversity of political views in our congregation. Most would like to see our immigration become more humane, more equitable, and offer more opportunities for legal migration. Most would also want to offer welcome and understanding in personal relationships with immigrants (legal or undocumented).”

“Our congregation members fall on a broad spectrum of ideologies, but we try to practice hospitality towards others, especially as God calls us to welcome the strangers and aliens.”

The task force will use the results of this survey to engage with congregations and support them however we can. We ask you to engage in action steps as you feel led, to pray for our leaders as they make and change laws, and to pray for and show compassion to immigrants as their lives are affected by these decisions.

If you're interested in the work of the WDC immigration task force or would like to join us, please let us know!

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