

PFJI is a network of Presbyterians interested in various immigration issues and how these issues impact their communities, churches and presbyteries. PFJI is committed to fostering discussion, sharing resources, promoting advocacy, and writing liturgy on various immigration topics. As large numbers of people enter the United States and participate in our communities and churches, members of PFJI hope to empower Presbyterians to share vision, best practices, resources, and a passionate concern for those coming to the United States to live and work.

If you are interested in coming together with other Presbyterians around this important and current issue, you may join the Network by sending an email to Dana Dages ddages@ctr.pcusa.org or call if you have questions, 888-728-7228 x 5202 or 502-569-5202. Once you submit your name, you will receive an email from Yahoo Groups to join PFJI. Click on the email and follow the Yahoo instructions (you may need to create a yahoo ID and password) This will ensure you are connected with the Network.



**PRESBYTERIANS FOR
JUST IMMIGRATION**

Office of Immigration Issues

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OGA *Office of the
General Assembly*

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Policy on Immigration

The Presbyterian General Assemblies began to speak out on immigration and refugee issues when the aftermath of World War II and the partitioning of Europe displaced millions of people. This led to the 1953 PC(USA) Assembly to call for a comprehensive review of the nation's immigration policies. In 1954 the PC(USA) Assembly called for legislation to provide for needs of migrant workers who had lived and worked in the United States throughout the war, often replacing workers who were fighting and therefore unable to farm or work in manufacturing.

In subsequent years the Assemblies spoke to the problems of refugees arriving in the US from all over the world. The 1980 UPCUSA and 1982 PCUS Assemblies issued general statements on the world refugee situation and expressed support for actions in what was called the "sanctuary movement", when thousands of Central American refugees poured into the United States fleeing from repression and human rights violations. Mexican migration continued to go unaddressed by the government and in 1981 a PC(USA) joint statement with PCUS stated "Mexican immigrants reveal again our divided mind about immigration. They are told they are needed and at the same time that they are not wanted. They are regarded both as burden and benefit. Political and geographical boundaries are in and of themselves part of the human social existence... However, the only boundaries Christians recognize ultimately are those established by justice and love."

The 206th PC(USA) General Assembly (1994) adopted the "Call to Presbyterians to Recommit to Work and Pray for a Just and Compassionate U.S. Immigration Policy" Again, in 1999 and 2004 Presbyterians, through General Assembly actions, guided by theological and ethical principals, continued to call for a commitment from both Presbyterians and the government to work toward welcoming immigrants into our communities and providing just laws that effect those who live and work in the United States. The need for immigration reform continues today. In 2006, the PC(USA) General Assembly again echoed what has been expressed for the last 50 years. To read the latest Presbyterian immigration policy statement go to 2006 Resolution at www.pcusa.org/immigration.

The Office of Immigration Issues will provide...

- Resources and legal materials to help our middle governing bodies and churches receive and welcome into our faith communities people from other cultures and ethnicities.
- Appropriate links and information on the PC(USA) website so that congregations, middle governing bodies and Presbyterian entities will have the latest information on immigration issues.
- A point of contact for immigration work and advocacy throughout the denomination on local and national levels. This Office will coordinate information and action around such issues as detention, trafficking, immigration law, asylees, refugees, border issues, and immigration and social services through networks and training events and partnership with Presbyterian and other interfaith organizations..
- Advocacy for the reform of current immigration law, policies and procedures as outlined in the Resolution passed at the 217th General Assembly (2006).
- Networking and referrals for Middle Governing Bodies and PC(USA) Churches to agencies, organizations and legal counsel that can deal effectively with immigration issues.
- Resources for pastoral and cross-cultural care with immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, detainees, and others in our communities.

