

## **UNYAC2026.4: SUPPORT OUR IMMIGRANT SIBLINGS**

Book of Discipline (§): 163, “Basic Rights and Freedoms” G

Book of Resolutions paragraph (§): N/A

Conference Committee/Agency that would be affected by/responsible for implementation if passed: Conference Secretary

Financial Implications: None

Brief Rationale: In New York State, many of our *siblings* are immigrants. We are called on by Jesus to *be good* neighbors, and we seek to do so by supporting legislation in New York that will provide *dignity, safety, and due process*.

Whereas, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus *urged to be a good neighbor by asking* “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:36-27), and

Whereas, given that 22.8% of the New York State population is foreign born, 650,000 individuals are undocumented immigrants, and 276,000 children in NYS have at least 1 undocumented family member, many of our *siblings* are immigrants<sup>1</sup>, and

Whereas, local collusion with ICE denies immigrants due process, and

Whereas, Immigrants with legal representation are up to 10.5 times more likely to win their cases compared to those without legal help<sup>2</sup>

Whereas, our well-being is communal and immigrants make up over a quarter of the state’s workforce. Immigrants include 190,800 entrepreneurs and immigrants in New York contributed \$31.3 billion in state and local taxes in 2023. Further, providing state-wide access to counsel for all people facing deportation would generate an estimated \$8.4 billion net benefit for federal, state, and local governments.<sup>3</sup>, and

Whereas, throughout the Bible God demands *compassion for foreigners precisely because Israelites were foreigners in Egypt*. Lev. 19:33-34, “ When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” and Matthew 25, where Jesus says in verse 40 “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me,” and

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<sup>1</sup> New York Immigration Coalition Report “Empire State Resisting”

<https://share.google/OnikMIKavtU4Ls3yx>

<sup>2</sup> Care for Immigrant Families One Pager

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y4amZ9LRnp8xGshQJGk0tUaUs9k\\_KMSz/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y4amZ9LRnp8xGshQJGk0tUaUs9k_KMSz/view)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

Whereas, our Social Principles state, ""We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees." (163, "Basic Rights and Freedoms" G)

Therefore be it resolved that United Methodists of Upper New York support the following legislation in New York State:

- New York for All (NY4All) Act ends collusion between local and state agencies and federal immigration agencies by prohibiting the sharing of information and ensuring that our Attorney General has a vehicle of response to incidents of inclusion.
- The Access for Families Act that relates to allowing unaccompanied children in custody to petition the family court
- The Access to Representation Act (ARA) would establish a right to counsel in immigration court under a universal representation model, ensuring that anyone facing deportation who cannot afford a lawyer will be provided one.
- The Building Up Immigrant Legal Defense (BUILD) Act that enacts building up immigrant legal defense funds.

And,

Be it further resolved that United Methodists of Upper New York are strongly encouraged to reach out to their Assemblymembers, Senators, and Governor to express their support for these pieces of legislation, and

Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Upper New York Annual Conference shall be directed to send a letter to Governor Hochul:

"Dear Governor Hochul,

In accordance with the attached resolution, adopted at our 2026 Annual Conference, the Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church thanks you for your work to take care of our immigrant *siblings*. We celebrate the work being done to pass the NY4All, Access for Families, Access to Representation, and BUILD acts and strongly encourage you to support them. Thank you for all you are doing for our *siblings*, and for considering taking these further steps.

This letter shall be sent, no later than August 1, 2026, to:

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224