

Exploring the issues: Immigration

A look at today's issues through an Anabaptist lens.



Overview

MC USA advocates for compassionate and just immigration policies, grounded in biblical teachings of hospitality and care for the marginalized. Our congregations follow Jesus by welcoming immigrants and practicing radical hospitality.

Our views on immigration are shaped by Jesus' teaching on welcoming the stranger (Matthew 25:31-40) and our collective commitment to peace, justice and reconciliation. As expressed in our 2014 Churchwide Statement on Immigration, "we advocate for just and humane immigration policies for immigrants and refugees, and we empower congregations, area conferences and denominational staff to serve as advocates for these vulnerable groups of people. We commend all levels of the Church in efforts to welcome immigrants: providing mutual aid and social service resources, building intercultural relationships and diverse worshiping communities, and treating immigrants with dignity and respect."

Resources

- **2014 Churchwide Statement on Immigration**, mennoniteusa.org/immigration_statement
- **Immigration Justice: Radical Hospitality, an MC USA Learn, Pray, Join initiative** (2020) mennoniteusa.org/lpj/immigration
- **Radical Hospitality Bible study**, mennoniteusa.org/resource/radical-hospitality

Take action

- Learn skills to help facilitate intercultural competency and/or undoing racism
- Plan Bible studies, sermons and worship services on themes of hospitality to immigrants.
- Advocate for just and humane immigration policies for immigrants and refugees by contacting your local, state and national elected officials.
- Offer church facilities and volunteers for documentation services, language classes, mental health support, cultural celebrations and other ministries.
- Engage in mutual aid to offer food, shelter, clothing, housing, transportation and other resources to immigrants regardless of their status.

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Discussion questions

- What forces are pushing immigrants? What forces are pulling them?
- How does the issue of race overlap with opinions and policies regarding immigration?
- Considering that “for/against” sides have become increasingly polarized on the issue of immigration, what is one step that you as an individual could take to bridge the divide? What would be a step that your group/church could take?

Our work

- MC USA provides resources for greater understanding to conferences and congregations (see Resources on page one).
- The Justice Fund, a mutual aid fund, provides grants to MC USA churches that are actively involved in dismantling racism, addressing police brutality, reimagining policing in our society or combating poverty.
- The Bring the Peace Award honors individuals whose commitment to peace has been inspiring and transformative

More information

**Meet Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz,
denominational minister for Peace and
Justice**

Lorraine works to resource conference ministers, conferences and pastors with opportunities to strengthen capacity and engagement in Christ-centered peace and justice, as well as serves as a liaison and coordinator for peacebuilding initiatives throughout MC USA.



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