

Dear Colleagues,

After many years of advocating for immigration reform that would uphold the dignity and integrity of our immigrant sisters and brothers, we were pleased when last November President Obama issued an Executive Order that would temporarily delay deportation orders for certain groups of undocumented immigrants living and working in the U.S. However, in February an injunction was issued that has temporarily delayed the Executive Order. This delay has deeply impacted the lives of immigrant families across the country shattering their hopes of coming out of the shadows of society and having their contributions to the U.S. economy, society in general, and communities of faith, recognized.

We know that many of you have been working diligently to lead your areas to welcome the immigrant and do all you can to support comprehensive immigration reform. The recent set-back we have experienced in this country on the immigration reform front has discouraged even some of our best leaders and caused confusion for our congregations striving to be welcoming and supportive of immigrant families. Some time ago we covenanted with you to do our best to share with you our best thinking around the immigration concerns in the U.S. and other parts of the world. This letter is sent to you out of this commitment.

What we would share with you at this moment is that we have done the hard analysis of where we are in the U.S. immigration situation and are confident that the injunction issued in February that has temporarily delayed the Executive Order will be set aside. This means that as United Methodists we have much work to do to assist our immigrant sisters and brothers to prepare for the implementation of the Executive Order. By God's grace the moment will come when over 4 million immigrants will receive some relief from their long suffering.

Below we have included a resource to let United Methodists know that we have ongoing ministry to do with immigrant families including some concrete ways we can all continue to help. Please share this resource with leaders in your areas.

May we continue to pray for immigrant families not only in the U.S. but around the world. May God have mercy upon them and upon all of us.

Peace,

Julius C. Trimble

Minerva G. Carcaño