



January 26, 2026

Re: Statement from Office of Belonging & Advocacy

As United Methodists in the Virginia Conference, our commitment to immigrant justice is rooted in our faith, shaped by our Social Principles, and guided by our call to love our neighbors as ourselves. In this season of heightened fear, uncertainty, and harm toward immigrant communities, we affirm that the Church has both a pastoral and public responsibility: to offer care, to speak truth, and to act with courage.

This page gathers statements, resources, and practical tools to help clergy, congregations, and ministry partners respond faithfully—through education, accompaniment, advocacy, and public witness. We encourage individuals and churches to take action where they are able, to do so wisely and safely, and to remain attentive to the well-being of those most directly impacted.

We also recognize the particular burden many pastors are carrying as they seek to preach the Gospel of justice, mercy, and love in these trying times. We urge congregations to support their pastors with prayer, grace, and encouragement as they navigate difficult conversations, preach prophetically, and shepherd communities through fear and division.

These resources are not about partisan politics; they are about moral clarity, human dignity, and the Gospel's insistence that every person bears the image of God. While people across our Conference may engage these issues from different contexts and perspectives, our hope is that this page will support thoughtful conversation, faithful action, and a deeper embodiment of belonging—especially for those who are most vulnerable among us.

Grace and peace,

**Rev. Lan Davis Wilson**

Director of Belonging & Advocacy

Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

“There can be no love without justice.”— bell hooks