

October 22, 2010

Dear Rapid Response Team Members,

Although the political climate about immigration is rather discouraging right now, we are not giving up! Together with the Interfaith Immigration Coalition we are moving forward for a special New Year's Resolution Campaign for Humane Immigration Reform in 2011. We invite you to reflect on the past year and renew your commitment to immigration reform with your communities by making New Year's Resolutions for immigration reform.

We hope this will be an encouragement to all of us as we spend time together in our faith communities and are connected to people all across the country who are making their own New Year' Resolutions for immigration reform.

Included in this packet are:

- a one page summary of the New Year's Resolution Campaign,
- check lists of what to do before and as the Campaign gets underway, and
- the pledge card template.

For any events you are planning such as prayer vigils or Breaking Bread and Barrier events, just let me know and I can get you the toolkits and provide you with any help you need. Also keep visiting the official [YouTube Channel of the Campaign](#), "Faith4Immigration" as the New Year's Resolution Campaign is launched to see videos from Bill Mefford and myself, along with hundreds of others, and even YOU!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'm excited to hear about the Resolutions you make! You continue to blow me away with all that you do and I'm glad that we are together in this struggle.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Thorne
General Board of Church and Society
Grassroots Coordinator for Immigration
mthorne@umc-gbcs.org
(202) 488-5644

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION CAMPAIGN

Reflection, Renewal, Resolution for Humane Immigration Reform in 2011

[The judge] said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." (Luke 18:4)

Reflection: We need Congress and the public to see and hear first-hand accounts of the suffering of immigrant families, and disappointment felt by the faith community due to inaction on immigration reform. Our elected leaders have failed to put forward workable solutions, and it is time that the faith community both express our deep frustration and model our unfailing hope that resolution is possible.

Renewal: We will renew our shared commitment with one another to move forward refreshed and empowered to tackle creative initiatives and cooperative advocacy for just and humane immigration reform in 2011.

Resolution: We will commit together to better educate and mobilize our faith communities, advocate for reform to our elected leaders, and organize ourselves to push for legislative change in even more compelling and strategic ways in the New Year. We will share our New Year's Resolutions through our collective pledge cards, and be resolved to reach out to our friends and neighbors through conversations and creative events in order to build a broader base for humane immigration reform. We will hold one another accountable to stand with immigrants, to mobilize our faith communities, and to hold Congress accountable to passing immigration reform in 2011.

ACTION STEPS

1. Make a New Year's Resolution: Get together with your team or task force, and decide individually and corporately from the list of options on the pledge card how you will take action in solidarity with immigrants in 2011. Your team or task force will function as your "accountability partners" so that your individual and corporate pledges will be followed through. Detach the lower part of the cards and send them to Michelle Thorne so we can make sure Congress knows that people of faith are continuing the fight for immigration reform.

2. Share the Resolution: The Interfaith Immigration Coalition will host a New Year's Resolution Channel on YouTube, where your team or task force will post 1-2 minute videos sharing personal stories, stating their New Year's Resolutions, and inviting others to make similar resolutions. Videos will be cross-posted on the GBCS website and can be posted on your conference website as well. You will be able to see your video on the IIC YouTube channel and see the videos of others from a diverse number of faith communities. This is a fun and creative way to spread what your team or task force is doing throughout your community and conference and to your elected leaders as well!

3. Engage Your Community: Make it a party! Host a "New Year's Resolution" gathering before New Year's so that your team or task force can make the video collectively or after the New Year so that you can begin your year together! Eat. Pray. Plan how you will make an impact through your committed action in 2011.

RESOURCES To support participants in the New Year's Resolution Campaign, we'll provide:

- **Bulletin Inserts** will be sent out with theological reflection, immigrants and advocates' stories, and suggested ways to get involved and involve others.
- **Magnets** with the capitol switchboard number and reminding people of their resolution.
- **Toolkit with options for events:** The toolkit contains how-to's for events such as prayer vigils and Breaking Bread and Barrier events, as well as how to use the New Year's Resolution for your team or task force.

TIME LINE

October: New Year's Resolution campaign resources will be sent out.

November: Host a New Year's Resolution party – decide on the resolutions your team or task force is making individually and corporately. Prayerfully share them and commit yourself to follow through. Take this time to film your YouTube video. Make it fun, make it serious, and show the great work your team or task force is doing!

December: Post your video to our YouTube channel and check out other videos. Or if you haven't yet, host a New Year's Resolution party for your team or task force so that you can sign your pledge cards and encourage others to join you.

January: Congress returns to Washington DC, and they start getting weekly calls from us! **Our renewed, committed action for immigration reform begins.**

Party Host Check-List (Pre-Party Preparations)

- Identify other leader(s) who can plan their own “Pre-New Year’s Party” and send them a copy of this packet
- Identify a Party Co-Host for yourself who can help you with the preparation and the details!
- Invite a tech savvy person to the party who can record and upload short YouTube videos of everyone’s New Year’s Resolutions ([More on that below](#)). ****Chances are, more than a few of the youth in your community know how to record and upload videos, and asking them to help you record your New Year’s Resolution(s) could be a great way to build relationships and introduce them to the justice work of the church—and it could be fun!****
- Set the date, time, and place for your party (before the holiday season kicks off) and email the date/location to Michelle Thorne at mthorne@umc-gbcs.org!!
- Make your guest list
- With your Co-Host, determine what type of food you will offer (appetizers, finger food, dinner, potluck, vegetarian, vegan, etc.) and what you will ask guests to bring.
- Invite people to the party! (In whatever ways work for you – email, phone calls, Facebook, mail) and be sure to let them know the place, date, and time, what they need to bring, and whether they need to RSVP.
- A few days before the party, send a reminder to all guests with directions to the location of the party!
- Prepare and bring the food that you signed up to bring.
- Print and pledge cards and bring them to the party! Make sure you have enough for everyone at the party, and additional copies for partygoers to take home and use to recruit others in their communities!
- Familiarize yourself with the pledge card responsibilities as the party host ([More on that below](#))!
- If you plan to play the Immigration Board Game, [keep reading below](#) for details on what you need to prepare in advance.

How to Create that Party Atmosphere

We know you don’t need us to tell you what to do at the party! But just so we are all on the same page - have fun, enjoy great community, laugh lots, share stories, and eat delicious food. If you need extra tips: play the [Immigration Board Game](#), share the best immigration action,

events, and stories of the year, make your personal YouTube video clips, and, **most important of all**, don't forget to **make your pledge!**

Here's how this works:

- Hand out pledge cards and have people fill them out and sign each other's cards. Since pledges are best achieved communally, allow individuals to share their pledges with everyone at the party and then everyone can sign one another's cards as a chance to stand in solidarity with one another. This can build your group through shared experience and accountability!
- Make sure each person includes their personal information and pledge numbers at the bottom of the pledge card. Have them cut off the bottom part of the pledge card to leave with you, the party host!
- Collect the bottom part of the pledge cards.
- Give blank pledge cards to each guest to spread around and collect in their communities. Make sure that everyone knows what to do with the pledge cards once they are completed:
 1. Collect the pledges, tally up the number of people and actions and email to mthorne@umc-gbcs.org **OR**
 2. Make copies of the pledge cards and mail them to Michelle Thorne at 100 Maryland Ave, NE Suite 310 Washington, DC 20002.

Getting Ready for the Big Game: The Immigration Board Game, that is!

No party is a party without laughter, fun, and GAMES. We invite you to play this all too real Immigration Board Game at your party, created by the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations from interviews with immigrants in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. It's quite simple to play and best of all, FREE. You are able to download and print all that you need to play this game. Just email Michelle Thorne at mthorne@umc-gbcs.org and receive the game and instructions in a pdf file ready to print!

Want to Avoid Those Embarrassing Party Pictures? Create your own YouTube Video!

What's a party without that one person who insists on recording those embarrassing soda-out-your-nose moments to later post on YouTube?? Or that ugly sweater photo that will haunt you in 30 years, or maybe even next week?

Avoid those future embarrassing moments by PLANNING to have someone with camera skills present! As part of the New Year's Resolution Campaign, we are inviting folks to record short videos (1-2 min.) of why they care about immigration reform and to publically proclaim their New Year's Resolution to continue to do engage in activism!

Here's what you need to do as the Party Host:

1. Contact someone to come to the party who has a video camera and knows how to post short clips on YouTube.
2. As the party gets underway, explain to people that they are invited to share their New Year's Resolutions and why they are passionate for immigration reform on camera. Let people know that these will be posted on YouTube in order to inspire and encourage others to continue the struggle!
3. After the party, follow up with the video person and ensure that they post the clips to the official [YouTube Channel of the Campaign](#), "Faith4Immigration".

Post-Party Host Actions

- Collect all the pledges and tally up the number of people and actions and email to Michelle Thorne at mthorne@umc-gbcs.org **OR** Make copies of all the pledge cards and mail them in to Michelle Thorne at 100 Maryland Ave, NE Suite 310 Washington, DC 20002. We will not be following up with all of the individuals, but we are keeping track of how many actions are being taken so we can tell Congressional offices and the Administration what United Methodists are doing to move this issue forward! **So, please send these in!!** Whichever way you choose, make sure you keep a copy for yourself!
- During the first week of January, send a mass email to encourage all those who made a resolution at the party to begin working on their resolutions!
- Plan to participate in the National Faith and Immigration Grassroots Call on January 10, 2011 to share your New Year's Resolutions, hear stories from other people around the country participating in the campaign, and hear the latest update on immigration reform and the new session of Congress.
- By February 15, send an email following up with people about their particular pledges. Invite any feedback or stories about how the resolutions are going.
- As you hear good stories back from folks on their resolutions, send them to mthorne@umc-gbcs.org!
- After the party, follow up with the video person and ensure that they post the clips to the official [YouTube Channel of the Campaign](#), "Faith4Immigration".
- After the party, send around the link to the official YouTube channel to those who attended the party. Watch your own video and publish the link on your Facebook/Twitter account so all your friends can see what you are doing! Check out clips from others across the country making similar resolutions and be inspired!
- Remember to say Thank You to all of the people who helped you organize your party, the person who recorded and posted the videos, etc., and share your work with members of your faith community so those who haven't been engaged in the issues can be inspired by your commitment!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

For Just and Humane Immigration Reform in 2011

Please pick two actions in addition to #1 and have others in your group or team to sign the Accountability Partner list below. At the bottom of the page, fill out the information so that the Party Host can keep them and follow up. These resolutions are to be achieved between January 1, 2011 and April 24, 2011.

1. *I will call Congress once a week* and tell them, "Hi, my name is _____ and as a United Methodist, I urge you to do all you can to enact humane immigration reform reunifies families and provides a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants."
- _____ 2. *I will invite an immigrant family to my home for dinner on at least 3 different occasions.*
- _____ 3. *I will have 5 conversations with friends or fellow church members* who have reservations about supporting humane immigration reform in order to deepen their understanding of the issue and bring them along in support of immigration reform.
- _____ 4. *I will volunteer at least 5 times* at an English as a Second Language ministry or Justice For Our Neighbor legal clinic (or other form of immigrant legal clinic).
- _____ 5. *I will host a showing and discussion time of one of the suggested films* (in the resource packet) for friends and fellow church members who have reservations about supporting humane immigration reform.
- _____ 6. *I will pray daily* for protection of immigrants and their families, for the boldness of the faith community to advocate for just and humane immigration reform, and for moral courage for elected leaders to enact legislation that provides a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants and that reunifies families.
- _____ 7. *Other* If you have your own ideas write them here! _____

List of Accountability Partners:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please list which resolutions you are committed to by number: _____
