

Resolution To Support Refugee Resettlement in Vermont

Submitted by the Mission Committee of the Vermont Conference of the United Church Of Christ.

Class I

WHEREAS, the National United Church of Christ has claimed itself to be a church of “extravagant welcome”, and put forth the slogan “No Matter who you are or where you are on your journey, you are welcome here”, and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ is itself a Just Peace Conference and is supporting the theme “Be The Church” in 2016 which includes caring for the poor, rejecting racism, fighting for the powerless, sharing earthly and spiritual resources and embracing diversity, and

WHEREAS our forefathers and mothers were themselves refugees from religious and political oppression and economic scarcity, and

WHEREAS we remember the history laid down in scripture in which the Jewish people were refugees out of Egypt, and later taken captive in Babylon and even Jesus, his mother and father were exiled into Egypt, and

WHEREAS we know Jesus has said “where you have done this to the least of these you have done it to me”, and

WHEREAS Vermont presently receives and supports refugees from some 80 countries around the world and is going to receive refugees from Syria in the next two years who will need support of many kinds.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ

1. At the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, on April 30th, 2016, the delegates of the local churches declare to the Governor and Legislators of Vermont our enthusiastic support for the welcome of Syrian refugees and those from other countries.
2. Call on churches throughout the State of Vermont to educate ourselves about the religious and cultural differences, as well as, the profound physical, psychological and spiritual needs of refugees as they enter our communities.
3. Work both within our churches and with other communities of faith to explore and act on ways of honoring the religious and cultural diversity of the refugees who arrive and live in our state.
4. Work collaboratively with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program to identify and communicate specific and immediate needs of refugees to our churches and communities and to provide creative solutions to those needs, where and whenever possible,
5. To make visible the welcome we are providing, while keeping the confidence and welfare of the refugees in mind.

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