Because We Believe:
United Methodist Women
Take Action for Immigrant and Civil Rights
2006-2012
In 2006, Women’s Division directors affirmed an Immigrant/Civil Rights Initiative to engage United Methodist Women in education, reflection and action in response to intensifying immigration debate based on anti-immigrant draft legislation. Today, anti-immigrant legislation is being implemented at the state level. This initiative comes from our biblical heritage—the call to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is also born out of our longstanding commitment to racial justice reflected in the Charter for Racial Justice. It is one way that we continue to read the times and discern how we respond as women of faith to contemporary issues of racial injustice. The current efforts for immigrant rights are part of the ongoing civil rights struggle in our nation. This is a debate about who “belongs” as Americans, which is very much a conversation about race. It involves all of us—not just new immigrants—as it defines who we are as Christians, as United Methodist Women, as a nation.

The initiative invites United Methodist Women to look at how immigration is part of our units, local churches and The United Methodist Church. It is not about “them”—it is about “us.” When women who do not speak English are welcomed to our meetings with interpretation facilities, we are extending the welcome to immigrants. When women cannot attend meetings because they do not have documents and fear border patrol roadblocks, we are challenged about how to be one body. Just as United Methodist Women refused to hold Assembly in St. Louis in 1942 because hotels would not welcome African-American sisters, we are called to discern how to respond today when immigrant sisters are excluded.

Since 2006, your response has been overwhelming. Our task is not done, but as the 2008-2012 quadrennium ends, this is a moment to celebrate the United Methodist Women members who’ve spoken out for racial justice and to thank them for their committed and creative engagement in the Immigrant/Civil Rights Initiative as they live out their faith by welcoming all to God’s table. This report represents the passion and commitment of many women—and we are grateful for their witness.

This report has been gathered from conference presidents, vice presidents and social action coordinators and compiled by Julia Kayser (consultant) and Carol Barton and Sophony Lamour (national United Methodist Women staff) with Cindy Johnson and Nicole Bell, Kyung Za Yim Interns for Immigrant and Civil Rights.

Our work is ongoing. Please continue to engage in the initiative, and share your work with Carol Barton, cbarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Carol Barton
Coordinator, Immigrant/Civil Rights Initiative and Executive for Community Action
January 2012
CONTENTS

Alabama-West Florida ................................................................. 5
Alaska Missionary ................................................................. 5
Arkansas .................................................................................... 5
Baltimore-Washington ............................................................ 6
California-Nevada ................................................................. 7
California-Pacific ................................................................. 8
Central Texas .......................................................................... 9
Dakotas .................................................................................. 9
Desert Southwest ................................................................. 10
Detroit .................................................................................... 11
East Ohio ............................................................................... 11
Eastern Pennsylvania .......................................................... 12
Florida ................................................................................... 12
Greater New Jersey ............................................................... 13
Holston ................................................................................... 14
Illinois Great Rivers ............................................................. 14
Indiana .................................................................................... 14
Iowa ......................................................................................... 15
Kansas East ............................................................................ 16
Kansas West ........................................................................... 17
Kentucky ................................................................................ 17
Louisiana ............................................................................... 17
Memphis ................................................................................ 18
Minnesota ............................................................................. 18
Mississippi ............................................................................. 18
Missouri ............................................................................... 19
Nebraska ............................................................................... 20
New England ......................................................................... 21
New Mexico ................................................................. 22
New York ................................................................. 22
North Alabama ......................................................... 23
North Carolina ......................................................... 24
North Georgia ......................................................... 24
North Texas ......................................................... 25
Northern Illinois ...................................................... 26
Northwest Texas ....................................................... 26
Oklahoma .............................................................. 27
Oklahoma Indian Missionary ...................................... 27
Oregon-Idaho .......................................................... 27
Pacific Northwest .................................................... 28
Peninsula-Delaware .................................................. 29
Red Bird Missionary .................................................. 30
Rio Grande ............................................................ 30
Rocky Mountain ....................................................... 31
South Carolina ......................................................... 32
South Georgia ........................................................ 32
Southwest Texas ....................................................... 32
Susquehanna ........................................................... 33
Tennessee ............................................................... 34
Texas ................................................................. 34
Upper New York ..................................................... 35
Virginia ............................................................... 36
West Michigan ......................................................... 37
West Ohio ............................................................. 38
West Virginia ........................................................ 38
Western North Carolina ........................................... 39
Western Pennsylvania ............................................. 39
Wisconsin ............................................................. 40
Yellowstone .......................................................... 41
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA

- August 2011: Helen Genz participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2008-2009: Immigration is a conference social action priority (along with justice in public policy).
- United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.
- Language coordinator translates so that immigrant sisters feel welcome at United Methodist Women events.
- Ongoing use of program materials at local, district and conference level events.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
- Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local communities, including distribution of “Know Your Rights” information and emergency care for families facing deportation or detention.
- Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.
- United Methodist Women members participate in a conference immigration team.

ALASKA MISSIONARY

- August 2011: Judith Shoup participates in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.

ARKANSAS

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- March 18-22, 2010: United Methodist Women members attend Ecumenical Advocacy Days and participate in the March for America in Washington, D.C.
- 2007: Annual meeting focuses on immigration. Guest speaker Carol Barton, from the Women’s Division headquarters in New York, leads a Bible study on laborers in the vineyard. Focus groups also address the issue.
- Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration established.
- Ongoing support of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).
Baltimore-Washington

- 2011: Social action coordinators work to create a detention center visitation project.
- 2011: DREAM Sabbath activities at conference, district and local levels.
- 2011: Maryland Legislative Advocacy Day focuses on immigration and encourages legislative visits.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women public witness at the district and local levels through prayer vigils.
- May 2010: Ann Price, social action coordinator, co-facilitates a racial justice workshop at the United Methodist Women National Assembly in St. Louis, Mo.
- March 2010: March for America on the National Mall to gain support for immigration reform.
- 2010: Immigration focus for the Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members promote and participate in the 365 Day Fast in Solidarity With DREAM Act Students.

- 2010: 38 United Methodist Women attend the seminar “Who is My Neighbor? A Christian Perspective on Immigration Reform,” in New York City. The seminar with the Seminar Program includes a site visit to Domestic Workers United.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.
- Ongoing partnerships with conference leadership, Church Women United,
Detention Watch Network, Interfaith Immigration, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Council of Churches, General Board of Church and Society, Conference Board of Church and Society, and CASA de Maryland.

- Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local communities, including distribution of “Know Your Rights” information and emergency care for families facing deportation or detention.
- United Methodist Women supports Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing use of program materials at local, district and conference level events.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
- United Methodist Women is member of Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

- August 2011: Victoria Din and Melody Yang participate in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.
- April 11, 2011: “A Place to Call Home,” a legislative event at United Methodist Church Sacramento, focuses on immigration. Speakers include Elizabeth Sholes, director of public policy, California Council of Churches; the Rev. Brenda Vaca, chair of the Cal-Nevada Rapid Response Immigration Team; and Belinda Robinson, chair of Justice for Our Neighbors and the Bay Area Immigration Task Force. Speakers link immigration and human trafficking, urge members to oppose California Bill AP26, call for just immigration reform and advocate for the DREAM Act. President Connie Jones circulates buttons, posters and United Methodist policy on immigration.
- January 21-23, 2011: United Methodist Women members lead a workshop at an immigration training event, “Our Call to Radical Hospitality.” A new Western Jurisdiction Immigration Team emerged from the event.
- 2011: Katherine Kim, United Methodist Women director, serves on the conference Rapid Response Immigration Team.
- May 2, 2009: At annual conference, United Methodist Women help with a training event organized by the conference Task Force on Immigration.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing use of program materials at local, district and conference level events.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC

- April 11, 2011: California-Nevada legislative event addresses immigration.
- Jan. 21-23, 2011: United Methodist Women lead a workshop at Western Jurisdiction immigration training event, “Our Call to Radical Hospitality.” A new Western Jurisdiction Immigration Team emerged from the event.
- 2011: The social action coordinator serves on conference Church and Society and is representative to conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.
- 2010: Annual meeting breakout session on border ministry.
- June 2010: Pacific Waves, a United Methodist Women newsletter reports (in Spanish) on a declaration of solidarity from the Council of Bishops to “our sisters and brothers among us who have migrated from their original homeland.” Promotes United Methodist policy on immigration, “Welcoming the Stranger to the United States.”
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo. Helena Kim, vice president, writes a newsletter article about it.
- March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.
- 2009-2010: Immigrant and civil rights is conference social action priority.
- September 2008: A group of Tongan women join the United Methodist Women unit at Bellflower First United Methodist Church.
- May 2008: Immigration workshop in the Santa Barbara District.
- 2008: United Methodist Women members support the Campaign for a United America to challenge anti-immigrant sentiment.
- 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in a Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.
- 2008: Margaret Lindgen, social action coordinator, presents United Methodist policy on immigration.
- Ongoing financial support to Susannah Wesley Community Center, a National Mission Institution.
- Ongoing support for immigrants in Hawaii. Jane Larson is on their board.
- Mission team collaboration with Korean, Samoan, Spanish and Tongan language coordinators around the needs and concerns of United Methodist Women members who are immigrants and provides language interpretation at United Methodist Women meetings to welcome immigrant United Methodist Women sisters.
- United Methodist Women members volunteer with programs that help local immigrants, such as Life Is for Everyone, a free tutoring center in East Salinas that serves many Latino children.
- Support for “LuhaKo,” group of Filipino immigrants who escaped from human trafficking.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing use of program materials at local, district and conference level events.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
CENTRAL TEXAS

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2008-2009: United Methodist Women members speak out against the T. Don Hutto Detention Facility in Taylor. In partnership with the Methodist Federation for Social Action, United Methodist Women members have demonstrations and advocate for the rights and education of immigrant children. Eventually, children are no longer held at the facility.
- 2008: Conference president Myrtis Parker helps organize United Methodist Women Day at General Conference in Fort Worth. United Methodist Women members participate in a United Methodist Church Task Force on Immigration rally for immigrant rights.
- United Methodist Women provides support for immigration clinics throughout the conference in partnership with JFON.
- JFON immigration lawyer Mary Beth Garcia and Global Ministries missionary Amy Spaur lead several focus groups on immigration at Schools of Christian Mission and annual meetings.
- United Methodist Women participate in an event featuring the author of Enrique’s Journey, a Reading Program selection.

DAKOTAS

- May 1, 2010: Kaye Harr, treasurer, and Bobbi Larson, president, participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- May 2010: Dakota Links, the Dakota United Methodist Women newsletter, reports on the Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights.
- Local units use the United Methodist Women Program Book to address immigration issues.
- Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.
Desert Southwest

- August 2011: Glenda Hill, social action coordinator, participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.
- 2011: United Methodist Women members witness court appearances of undocumented people picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.
- 2010: President Sharon Scobie appoints the first United Methodist Women Immigration Team, which includes one member from each district. The team marches in Phoenix in response to the Arizona immigration bill SB-1070. They speak in local churches and work with the conference immigration team to host “holy conferencing” dialogues about immigration in a volatile context.
- 2010: Focus group on immigration at School of Christian Mission.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- April 2010: Marjorie Hrabe leads a session about border realities during Ubuntu Day at Assembly, with a PowerPoint developed by Chris Spencer. United Methodist Women members respond by making “border kits” for migrant ministries.
- March 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. They each follow up with presentations at their district annual meetings.
- 2010: Immigration event in Tucson before spring retreat.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.
- 2010: United Methodist Women supports a Campaign for a United America event on anti-immigrant sentiments.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members on the conference mission team read the Reading Program book They Take Our Jobs!
- May 1, 2009: Social action coordinator Linda Stenholm holds one-woman public witness to commemorate first anniversary of the immigration raid that took place at Agriprocessors in Postville, Iowa. Day of nationwide awareness of the need for just immigration reform. Hands out fliers and engages public in conversation.
- 2009: Support for Amigos Center (Wesley Center), including English classes.
- January 2008: Chris Spencer participates in United Methodist Women delegation to the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights meeting in Houston, Texas.
- 2008: Bishop Carcaño leads a study on the spiritual growth study she wrote, I Believe in Jesus, with a focus on immigration.
**Detroit**

- August 2011: Patricia Bostic attends the immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members promote and participate in the 365 Day Fast in Solidarity With DREAM Act Students.
- March 27, 2009: United Methodist Women members join the Family Unity Campaign and take a national listening tour to hear testimonies from families.
- 2009: Detroit United Methodist Women newsletter provides education about global migration by highlighting the service of Global Ministries missionaries the Revs. Kristin and David Markay, who serve in a migrant congregation in Milan, Italy.
- 2009: United Methodist Women supports the Detroit Conference Hispanic/Latino Mission to nurture new congregations and provide leadership development and advocacy for the Hispanic/Latino community.
- 2009: Barbara Meyers, social action coordinator, encourages members to read about a history of Alma Mathews’s work with immigrant women in *United Methodist Women News*.
- Support for Justice for Our Neighbors of Southeastern Michigan. United Methodist Women are encouraged to provide financial support, volunteer at the legal clinic, host an educational presentation and advocate for just and human immigration policies.
- Conference Rapid Response Immigration Team.
- Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

**East Ohio**

- 2011: Social action coordinator serves on conference Church and Society Committee. This committee has a speakers’ bureau with immigration as one of the topics. United Methodist Women materials are shared with those speakers as well as with district social action coordinators.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.
- Local units host immigration presentations from Church and Society speakers’ bureau.
- Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.
- Ongoing partnership with Council of Churches.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
• Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
• Ongoing use of the Program Book at local, district and conference events.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

• June 2011: Former United Methodist Women president Ruth Daugherty attends the national Rapid Response Team meeting in Chicago in conjunction with Interfaith Worker Justice conference. She serves on the conference team on immigration and is actively involved in mobilizing for education and advocacy for immigrant rights.

• March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.

• Winter 2010: Through the United Methodist Women newsletter, Leta Arnold, social action coordinator, encourages members to “engage in the hot debate about immigration and development.”

FLORIDA

• November 2011: At annual meeting, United Methodist Women members are encouraged to write letters for the “Wish for the Holidays: That All Families Be Able to Stay Together” campaign.

• May 2011: Conference social action focus on children and on immigration (through Justice for Our Neighbors, JFON).

• 2011: Clarice McKenzie, West Michigan Conference social action coordinator, also spends time in Florida. Florida United Methodist Women is engaged in farmworker ministry. They work to help the families in the Plant City area who are strawberry farmworkers and their families. Many work their way north to Michigan for the late summer and fall crop work. Ms. McKenzie is working on a United Methodist Women connection for when the families are in West Michigan.

• 2011: United Methodist Women collaborates with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. They have connected with tomato pickers in the Immokalee area; these workers deal with the agribusiness corporations. United Methodist Women involvement includes advocacy for a work contract and pay increase, including joining some marches.
• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• March 28, 2009: United Methodist Women members attend a program on immigration in the Orlando area.

• 2009: United Methodist Women participate in a legislative event at the state capitol.

• 2009: Rosemary Uebel, social action coordinator, writes to government officials to help advance a campaign for fair food to eliminate slavery and exploitation of migrant farmworkers.

• 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.

• August 2007: Gertrude Stewart participates in the National Seminar in Nashville, Tenn. She joins a rally to “stop the raids of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement” at the state capitol. Florida United Methodist Women newsletter includes an article on her experience.

• Ongoing support of JFON.

GREATER NEW JERSEY

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo. Jackie Haaf volunteers as a peacekeeper.

• United Methodist Women participates on Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

• Melissa Rivera, director, takes local leadership on immigrant rights and helps staff Immigrant/Civil Rights Initiative at Assembly, including dressing as a clown to work with children on pictures about immigrants.

• Ongoing distribution of action alerts.

• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

• Ongoing use of the Program Book at local, district and conference events.
HOLSTON

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.
- December 2009: In the United Methodist Women newsletter, President Teddy Stevens promotes the Program Book. “Before we rush to rash judgments or fall into the trap of media overload, let’s look at immigration from the biblical standpoint and that of the church.”
- March 2009: In the United Methodist Women newsletter, President Teddy Stevens encourages United Methodist Women to put their fear of immigrants aside. “Take the initiative to get to know one person who is different from you this year.”
- Racial Justice Charter committee focus.
- Mission team collaboration with language coordinator around the needs and concerns of United Methodist Women members who are immigrants.
- Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local church communities.
- Ongoing distribution of action reports.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.

ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS

- May 8, 2010: United Methodist Women write to politicians in dissent with the Postville, Iowa, raids.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.
- 2008: Immigrant rights focus at the School of Christian Mission.
- 2008: Local units are encouraged to use the program “Say Welcome: Offering Hospitality to the Sojourner” by Sharon Delgado from the Program Book.
- 2007: Circulation of interfaith petition to candidates on immigrant rights.
- 2007: In the United Methodist Women newsletter, social action coordinator Linda Trent encourages districts to get involved in the issue of immigration.

INDIANA

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- September 13, 2008: Social Action Day includes immigration focus group, organized by United
Methodist Women members in collaboration with Church and Society.

IOWA

- 2012: Lenten Bible study “Into the Wilderness,” co-written by Bishop Julius Trimble and the Iowa Immigration Task Force, including United Methodist Women members, addresses immigration.
- October 2011: Mission education event on spiritual growth is offered in Spanish for the first time.
- August 2011: Marsha Gerot participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.
- 2011: United Methodist Women reach out to women in Hispanic congregations in the conference.
- 2011: Cooperation with conference Church and Society.
- 2011: Participation in the General Commission on Religion and Race campaign to “Drop the I-Word.”
- 2011: United Methodist Women members explore options for a detention visitation program.
- 2011: Social action coordinator Judy Kading serves on the Rapid Response Immigration Team.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- March 27, 2010: United Methodist Women members attend “Welcoming the Stranger,” a cultural awareness and action seminar sponsored by the Charter for Racial Justice Committee, at Staves United Methodist Church in Des Moines. United Methodist Women learn about cultural differences with a focus on Hispanic immigrants, Korean immigrants and refugees from Africa and Southeast Asia.
- March 21, 2010: United Methodist Women attend March for America Immigration Rally in Washington, D.C.
- 2010: Ongoing support of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). Judy Kading, social action coordinator, serves on the JFON board.
- 2009: United Methodist Women School of Christian Mission invites a migrant woman affected by the Postville raid to speak. United Methodist Women holds a food offering for Postville migrant families.
• 2009: Ollie Pleggenkuhl, Women’s Division director, serves on an interfaith team to develop a faith response to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid in Postville. She continues to monitor the situation.

• May 16, 2008: Judy Kading, social action coordinator, organizes daylong forum, “Charter for Racial Justice Policies as Seen Through the Lens of Immigration.” The event includes worship, Bible study and workshops. It encourages United Methodist Women members to support JFON, the Campaign for a United America (challenging anti-immigrant sentiment), and the DREAM Act. United Methodist Women members discuss the root causes of migration.

• 2008: United Methodist Women promotes use of film Made in LA in local units.

KANSAS EAST

• May 2-4, 2011: United Methodist Seminar on Immigration in Washington, D.C., includes theological reflections, meetings with human rights activists and visits to senators and representatives.

• 2011: Creation of a Conference United Methodist Women Immigration Action Team.

• 2011: Immigration is a social action priority.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• 2010: Annual meeting program book includes “A Commitment to Action—Because God First Loved Us” (School of Christian Mission action for 2010), which raises concerns for immigrant children.


• Ongoing use of program materials at local, district and conference levels.

• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

• Ongoing distribution of action alerts.

• Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.

• Ongoing cooperation with Della Lamb Center (National Mission Institution).

• Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local church communities.

• Racial Justice Charter committee focus.

Kansas East Conference United Methodist Women in St. Louis, Mo., May 1, 2010, for the March for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in conjunction with United Methodist Women’s Assembly 2010. Photo by Carol Barton.
**Kansas West**

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2010: Racial Justice Committee presents on immigration at the training for district officers.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.
- Collaboration with language coordinator around the needs and concerns of United Methodist Women who are immigrants.
- Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.
- Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.
- Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local church communities, including distribution of “Know Your Rights” information and emergency support to immigrant families facing detention and deportation.
- United Methodist Women visit detention centers.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Ongoing use of United Methodist Women resources at local, district and conference levels.

**Kentucky**

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

**Louisiana**

- 2012: School of Christian Mission will include an immigration Bible study.
- August 2011: Laura Salguero, social action coordinator, participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala., and attends the immigration march and prayer vigil.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- A local unit in the Monroe District supplies backpacks stuffed with school supplies and hygiene items to children of migrant farmworkers (through the school board).
- Ongoing support of e-mail petitions.
• Ongoing donations of supplies to immigrants.
• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

MEMPHIS
• August 2011: Kathryn McLaughlin participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.
• 2011: Social action coordinator distributes immigration information at the School of Christian Mission.
• 2011: Display on immigrant rights at district and conference annual days.
• 2011: Social action coordinator encourages United Methodist Women members to write to the president in support of the DREAM Act.
• Ongoing partnership with Church Women United.

MINNESOTA
• July 29, 2010: Isaiah 58 Prayer Vigil at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Grand Marais.
• July 11-18, 2010: United Methodist Women calls Minnesota to a week of fasting and prayer against the Arizona immigration law in conjunction with the Isaiah 58 summer.
• July 11, 2010: Isaiah 58 Prayer Service at Arlington Hills United Methodist Church in Maplewood.
• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
• June 15, 2009: United Methodist Women participate in interfaith community assembly on immigration rights. Congressmen Keith Ellison and Luis Gutierrez are present, and United Methodist Women buttons are distributed.
• Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

MISSISSIPPI
• November 5, 2011: District officer leadership training includes a focus group on radical hospitality.
• September 18, 2011: A local unit in Greenville, Reveals United Methodist Women, includes information on immigrant rights at its Women’s Day Program.

• United Methodist Women members participate in the immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala., and give a report at the conference annual meeting.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

MISSOURI

• March 2012 legislative event includes racial justice plenary, with ongoing concern for immigrant rights.

• March 2011: Missouri legislative event, organized by social action coordinator Rachel Bachenburg, includes focus on immigration and current anti-immigrant bills. Carol Barton, United Methodist Women national staff, is the resource person on radical welcome, and Marilyn Lorenz of the Interfaith Committee on Latin America leads a session on immigration. Breakfast meeting with state legislators addresses immigration debate and United Methodist Church policy.

• May 1, 2010: Conference President Mabel Unser helps to lead the Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo. Ms. Unser participates in the local organizing committee.

• 2010: Conference president Mabel Unser works with local television station to record diverse perspectives on immigration in Missouri for a documentary.

• 2010: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.

• 2010: Circulation of United Methodist Women immigration buttons.

• 2010: Marisa Villarreal presents on the United Methodist Church policy on migration issues at the School of Christian Mission.

• 2010: Social action coordinator Rachel Bachenburg organizes district events on immigration.
NEBRASKA

- April 2012: Seminar Program leads a local seminar in Nebraska on “Who is My Neighbor?”

- 2004-2012: JFON clinic is held in Columbus, Nebraska. Strong support is given to JFON, and this may be a growing area for Nebraska’s United Methodist Women.


- Fall 2011: Jamie Snyder presents information on the DREAM Act.

- September 2011: Judy Dangler gives a keynote speech on immigration at Prairie Rivers District meeting.

- August 2011: Joyce Solomon participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala. Marilyn Zehring, Women’s Division director, addresses interfaith vigil regarding Alabama anti-immigrant bill.

- July 2011: Two interns from the Micah Program present their work on immigration.


- February 2011: Karina Perez of the Christo Poder de Dios congregation speaks at a circle meeting about her experience coming to the United States.

- February 2011: Jamie Snyder attends national Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) meeting in Nashville.

- January 2011: Jamie Snyder and Sandy Sypherd teach a four-week class called “Real Images of Immigration” (a project of Bishop Sherer).
• January 2011: District officer training focuses on immigration. Approximately 100 officers receive training on conference focus area of immigration.

• 2011: Marilyn Zehring and other United Methodist Women members monitor anti-immigrant bills in state legislature.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• 2008: Annual meeting guest, Women’s Division director Judith Siaba, focuses on immigration.

• 2008: Kathy Pierce, social action coordinator, shares concerns about tensions between Latino (Christian) and Somali (Muslim) immigrant workers in Turkey plant, regarding time at work for prayers. Plant is also impacted by economic downturn.

• 2007-2008: Jamie Snyder presents a talk called “How Were You Raced?” to the Columbus Unit and the Federated Church Women’s group.

• August 2007: Louise Niemann participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Nashville, Tenn.

• August 2006: Jamie Snyder attends the Racial Justice Consultation in Oklahoma.

• Andrea Paret gives presentations about “Welcoming the Stranger” at United Methodist Women meetings.

NEW ENGLAND

• August 2011: Linda Borio participates in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.

• Spring 2011: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.

• 2011: Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration gives testimony in support of a Connecticut DREAM act.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.

• February 8, 2010: Youth attend Seminar Program in New York City.

• April 1, 2008: Marlene Towne urges United Methodist Women members to attend program at Albany District meeting (former Troy Conference) featuring members of the multicultural Emmaus Church.

• January 2008: Stacia Robinson, Women’s Division College Consultative Group, participates in United Methodist Women delegation to the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights meeting in Houston, Texas.

• 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.

• Ongoing support of the Charter for Racial Justice.
NEW MEXICO


- 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.

- Ongoing support of the Houachen Community center in El Segundo Barrio, which serves families and especially children who have recently immigrated.

- Ongoing support of the McCurdy School in Espanola Valley (National Mission Institution).

- United Methodist Women representatives travel to both the New Mexico and the Texas legislatures to participate and advocate for immigrant rights.

- A teen unit of United Methodist Women sends six girls, students at the Lydia Patterson Institute, to see their legislature in action. The stakes are high as these girls are in danger every day on their way to school from Juarez to El Paso.

NEW YORK

- 2012: Connecticut District, led by Roena Littlejohn, organizes a daylong program on immigration exploring local and national realities including Bible study and worship.


- November 2011: At the annual meeting, National Seminar attendees present an immigration program. Table displays are showcased.


- June 2011: Immigration table displays are set up at the Cooperative School of Christian Mission.


- 2011: Conference Rapid Response Team supports testimony in Connecticut legislature advocating for a state DREAM Act, which later passes (Senate Bill 40).

• 2011: United Methodist Women members are active in the conference’s Immigration Task Force daylong program “Know Your Neighbor, Know Yourself” at White Plains Memorial United Methodist Church.

• December 2010: United Methodist Women members promote and participate in the 365 Day Fast in Solidarity With DREAM Act Students.

• June 10, 2010: Olga Alveranga brings immigration buttons and posters to New York Annual conference.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.

• 2009, 2010: United Methodist Women help to birth the New York Conference Immigration Task Force in partnership with Church and Society, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Methodists in New Directions, Justice for Our Neighbors and other conference groups. They co-host two seminars organized by the United Methodist Women Seminar Program.

• December 2008: United Methodist Women join other groups in the New York Annual Conference in a December vigil at the Varick Street Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Center, calling for an end to Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids, detentions and deportations. Addresses by Harriett Olson and Bishop Jeremiah Park.

• October 1, 2008: Director Myung Rae Kim speaks on immigration efforts at annual meeting.

• November 2008: United Methodist Women members, including Korean United Methodist Women members, participate in an immigrant rights rally in Hempstead, N.Y., outside the last presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain in collaboration with the New York Immigration Coalition.

• 2008: District social action coordinators work with national staff Carol Barton and Dana Jones to create an immigrant rights banner to be used at the rally at General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas (see cover photo).

• Ongoing support of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

**North Alabama**

• March 2012: Betty Likis and Jacque Clay participate in a community hearing in Birmingham on the impact of H.B. 56 Alabama immigration law on migrant women and children. Event organized by the We Belong Together Coalition in conjunction with a national women’s delegation to Alabama.

• August 2011: Eula Thompson participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.

• August 2011: Betty Likis, district president, addresses interfaith prayer vigil regarding Alabama anti-immigrant law.


• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
May 1, 2010: Jacque Clay leads the North Alabama Conference prayer vigil for immigrant rights at Saint Paul United Methodist Church.

Ongoing distribution of action alerts.

Ongoing monitoring of local immigration legislation and letter writing to elected officials.

Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.

NORTH CAROLINA

August 2011: Belita Strudwick participates in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.


May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

March 6, 2010: Youth seminar on immigration with Seminar Program.


Ongoing support for Hispanic ministries with the Rev. Daniel Pantoja.

Ongoing distribution of action alerts.

Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.

Ongoing partnership with Church Women United.

Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

Ongoing support for Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.

NORTH GEORGIA

May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

May 2009: Deloris Carhee leads a presentation on immigration at First United Methodist Church Decatur.
Video is shown and response magazine is distributed.

- 2009: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.
- 2009: Deloris Carhee distributes “Immigrant Rights” buttons at social action event.
- 2009: Director Grace Pyen directs the Citizenship Program, which provides English language classes to the Asian and Latino communities.

NORTH TEXAS

- June 2011: Lori Stafford, social action coordinator, attends the Rapid Response Team meeting in Chicago. Ms. Stafford is co-founder of the Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN), a member of Texas IMPACT, and a participant in the Reform Immigration for Texas (RITA).
- April 2011: Denise Johnson Stovall and Lori Stafford participate in United Methodist Women/Global Ministries delegation to Detention Watch Network meeting in Austin. Ms. Stafford leads United Methodist Women group to vigil at capitol to challenge funding cuts and an anti-immigrant bill.
- 2011: United Methodist Women legislative event addresses anti-immigrant bills in state legislature.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days. Lori Stafford organizes carloads from Texas to attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.
- April 18, 2009: District social action event in Dallas with distribution of United Methodist Women buttons.
- 2009: United Methodist Women members hold prayer vigils as part of national effort.
- 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.
- Ongoing support for Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). Lori Stafford serves on the board of JFON for North Texas and Central Texas conferences.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

- August 2011: Sheila Carrasco, Jessie Cunningham and Sayaka Seguchi participate in immigration track at National Seminar; Birmingham, Ala.
- 2011: Local Mount Hope social action coordinator explores detention visitation.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- May 1, 2010: Mt. Hope United Methodist Women holds public witness at the detention center in Woodstock, Ill.
- April 2, 2009: Legislative event addresses immigration legislation.
- March 25, 2009: Rita Smith gathers information on immigration for Lobby Day at the Capitol.
- 2009: Judith Siaba and Marta Rodriguez participate in worship service and solidarity event held at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center.
- October 2008: Northern Illinois United Methodist Women issue a statement in support of the “Ya Basta” campaign calling for an end to immigrant raids, detentions, deportations and the separation of families. Rita Smith attends a “Ya Basta” press conference and signs a commitment scroll with other religious leaders calling for an end to detentions and deportations.
- 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.
- Conference Rapid Response Immigration Team.
- Ongoing support for Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).
- Ongoing language interpretation at United Methodist Women meetings to welcome immigrant sisters.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

NORTHWEST TEXAS

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
• April 2008: Members participate in United Methodist Women Day and Immigrant Rights Rally at General Conference in Ft. Worth.
• Ongoing distribution of action alerts and national United Methodist Women immigration information.
• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
• Ongoing monitoring of legislation and communication with elected officials.
• Ongoing support of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).
• Ongoing cooperation with Church Women United, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Council of Churches.

OKLAHOMA
• 2008: Women’s Division director Judith Siaba makes a presentation on immigration at annual meeting.
• December 2007: United Methodist Women members participate in a Neighborhood Santa Operation at a transitional housing facility in Oklahoma City.
• 2007: Donna Roberts and Annette Loos attend National Seminar “For Christ’s Sake, Turn the World Upside-Down” and explore challenges in America’s educational system. At annual meeting, they implore United Methodist Women to volunteer in schools.
• Ongoing promotion of the Charter for Racial Justice.
• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

OKLAHOMA INDIAN MISSIONARY
• Ongoing education and promotion of immigration awareness at the local, district and conference levels.
• Ongoing local unit use of the immigration program in the Program Book.
• Ongoing awareness by local United Methodist Women member who is dealing with immigration issues within her own family and who shares issues and concerns with her local unit and seeks supportive fellowship.

OREGON-IDAHO
• August 13-17, 2011: Lynda Montgomery and Alicia Porter participate in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.
• Summers 2010 and 2011: Young United Methodist Women members serve as counselors at a Latino Culture Camp at Suttle Lake.
• October 8, 2010: United Methodist Women national staff member elmira Nazombe leads a Bible study and workshop at the district level.
May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

March 21, 2010: United Methodist Women members attend the March for America Immigration Rally in Washington, D.C.

2010: Local unit in Potlach, Idaho, uses the 2010 Program Book to put on a program called “Immigration: Love as God Has Loved.”

2010: United Methodist Women members serve on Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

Portland First United Methodist Women, where social action coordinator Marilyn Outslay chairs the Peace Church Task Force, is committed to “advocate for peace on local communities and the world, whether conflicts arise in families, communities or across the globe ... because all people ... are equally valued and loved by our Creator” (Metro Clips, fall 2011).

Ongoing relationship with the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council.

Ongoing distribution of “Know Your Rights” information to immigrants.

Ongoing advocacy through letter writing to state and federal elected officials regarding immigration policy.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

January 2012: Local church urges congressman to support the DREAM Act.

October 15, 2011: Immigration is voted a social action priority at United Methodist Women annual meeting.

Fall 2011: Annual Conference meeting includes a workshop on immigration building on what members learned at National Seminar.

September 17, 2011: Jorge Baron of the New Immigration Rights Project speaks at a district meeting.

September 2011: Local church program held on the challenges facing immigrants who seek citizenship.
- August 2011: Janet Crouse and Rosanna Yates-Bailey participate in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.
- 2011: Conference adopts social action priorities including immigrant/civil rights. “Please contact your senators and congresspeople and urge them to listen to each other and find a common ground for cooperation in confronting these current challenges” (The Sharing Line, Winter 2011).
- 2011: Pacific Northwest United Methodist Women makes a commitment to racial justice within the organization. “United Methodist Women will increase its outreach to become more inviting and inclusive to women of all ages, stages and ethnic groups. ... United Methodist Women will seek out ways for members to be involved/visit ethnic churches” (The Sharing Line, Winter 2011).
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- January 2010: Discussion of the They Take Our Jobs! Reading Program book at a team meeting.
- 2008: Focus group at annual meeting, “Melt the ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement].”
- United Methodist Women attend vigils and meetings with local organizations regarding detention centers: Tacoma Community House (National Mission Institution), One America (Seattle), Community to Community (Bellingham).
- Ongoing emergency support to immigrant families facing detention and deportation.
- Ongoing distribution of action reports.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
- Ongoing Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.

**Peninsula-Delaware**

- October 2011: Vice president Lovely Berkley attends the annual meeting of Women’s Division and attends DREAM Sabbath. She reports that children born of undocumented immigrants are unable to get scholarships for education because they lack citizenship status. One young woman at the meeting states that without the help of the United Methodist Women she would not have been able to receive her education.
• October 2011: Inez Freeman and Crystal Johnson attend the National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.

• 2011: Faye Wilson, former General Board of Global Ministries staff and Peninsula-Delaware local unit member writes the children’s mission study book and leader’s guide on poverty for the 2012 Schools of Christian Mission. Poverty and migration are closely linked, and global migration is part of the Global Ministries’ Ministry With the Poor project.

**RED BIRD MISSIONARY**

• No actions reported.

**RIO GRANDE**

• August 2011: Leticia Castañeda and Elida Cisneros participate in immigration track at National Seminar, Birmingham, Ala.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• May 1, 2010: Blanca Pina organizes a vigil for immigrants in Seguin, Texas at La Trinidad United Methodist Church.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women holds immigration vigil at El Buen Pastor, Brownsville, Texas.

• May 1, 2010: Westlawn Prayer Vigil for Immigration Rights, San Antonio, Texas.

• May 1, 2010: Principe de Paz Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Rights, San Antonio, Texas.

• May 1, 2010: Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Rights, Weslaco, Texas.

• May 1, 2010: Vigil for Immigration Rights, McAllen, Texas.

• May 1, 2010: Obedeciendo El Mandato De Dios Vigil, Pharr, Texas.

• May 1, 2010: Love = Immigration public witness, Elsa, Texas.

• March 17-23, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, attend the March for America and visit congressional representatives in Washington, D.C.

• 2010: Deaconess Cindy Johnson co-organizes a vigil at the Raymondville Detention Center in collaboration with local groups, the Southwest Texas Conference and students from Union Theological Seminary.

• January 2008: Alicia Sanchez, conference president, and Hope Garza and Alejandra Laguna participate in United Methodist Women delegation to the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights meeting in Houston, Texas.
2008: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.

Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**


- 2011: Ellie Young, vice president, shares that “the first Monday of each month we stand with others at a vigil at the Aurora, Col., detention facility.”

- 2011: Janet Wolfer, social action coordinator, attends monthly meetings of a new ecumenical group striving for deeper understanding of the issue and what holds us back and to determine what actions are needed in the area.

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo. Brenda Moland assists as peacekeeper.

- March 21, 2010: Brenda Moland, then social action coordinator, attends March for America Immigration Rally in Washington, D.C.

- 2009: Brenda Moland organizes public forum on immigration concerns in Salt Lake City, Utah, with Catholic Archdiocese.

- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.

- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.

- Ongoing support for Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

- Attendance at a deportation hearing, cooperation with the Detention Watch Network.

- Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.
SOUTH CAROLINA

- February 2012: United Methodist Women members attend South Carolina Conference Legislative/Advocacy Day. The Rev. Emily Sutton discusses the DREAM Act.

- January 2012: Because of state legislation, United Methodist Women picks up steam on this issue and begins discussions about how to take action in the coming year.

- December 2011: United Methodist Women members participate in a march and candlelight vigil in solidarity with local immigrants. The event includes the bishop and other church leaders and is organized by the Columbia District Hispanic Task Force.

- Annual support for John's Island Rural Mission Ministry. Linda Gadsen distributes resources to migrant workers and their children.

- United Methodist Women Program Book is used in local units to raise awareness.

SOUTH GEORGIA

- October 2010: Mona Faye Williams, social action coordinator, presents information about the Charter for Racial Justice at a district leadership training event.

- Charter for Racial Justice Committee.

- Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS

- August 2011: Tiffany Klaerner and Mariza Smith participate in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.

- August 2011: Ilda Vasquez, Women's Division director, addresses interfaith prayer vigil on Alabama anti-immigrant law.

- April 2011: B.J. Lee participates in United Methodist Women/Global Ministries delegation to Detention Watch Network, Austin.

• 2011: B.J. Lee coordinates Austin United Methodist Women immigration event, including former U.S. Secretary of Labor.

• 2010: Deaconess Cindy Johnson co-organizes a vigil at the Raymondville Detention Center in collaboration with local groups, the Southwest Texas Conference, the Rio Grande conference and students from Union Theological Seminary.

• 2008: Sue Sidney, previous conference president, helps organize United Methodist Women members’ participation in United Methodist Church Task Force on Immigration rally in Ft. Worth during General Conference.

• 2008: United Methodist Women joins challenges to the detention of children in Hutto Detention Center in Austin. They send letters demanding that children receive schooling while in detention. Through intense campaigns by local and national groups, the center is finally closed to children.

• United Methodist Women support many immigrant families in the area through the Montopolis Friendship Community Center. It was founded by Austin District United Methodist Women 50 years ago to provide early-childhood programs, activities for seniors and scholarships for local students.

Susquehanna

• August 2011: Flo Waybright and Sarah Waybright participate in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.

• Spring 2011: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

• Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.

• Visitation of immigrants in detention and women’s prison ministry at Muncy Correctional Facility.

• Local churches support refugee resettlement.

• Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.

• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

• Ongoing distribution of action alerts.

• Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local communities, including emergency support for families facing detention or deportation.
TENNESSEE

- August 2011: Brenda Clark and Ruth Jean Pierre participate in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.
- 2009: Marina Rawls, spiritual growth coordinator, gathers information on immigration to share with local unit. Attends local Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) training.
- Fall 2009: Educational series on immigrant rights at the Scarritt-Bennett Center.
- 2007: Vigil at state capitol to end Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids as part of National Seminar in Nashville.
- Active support of JFON.
- Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

TEXAS

- 2011: Annual meeting focus on Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). Lori Stafford is a guest.
- October 18, 2011: Interfaith retreat focuses on immigration.
- Fall 2011: Local church explores a DREAM Sabbath.
- 2011: Vice president Lee Thornton works with the Mission Excellence Team to establish a JFON program in the Texas Conference. Currently grant writing for the project. A mission team will travel to Pharr, Texas, to volunteer at a JFON clinic there.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in immigrant rights rally at General Conference in Ft. Worth.
- January 2008: Thebe Worden (previous president), Lee Thornton (previous social action coordinator), Eugenia James (Spanish language coordinator) and Dorinda Guillermo (Tagalog language...
coordinator) participate in United Methodist Women delegation to the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights meeting in Houston.

- Conference T-shirt with ABCs of United Methodist Women includes X for ending Xenophobia.
- Vice president Lee Thornton is on the conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
- United Methodist Women strives to translate as much as possible into both Spanish and Tagalog in order to encourage participation from immigrant sisters.
- Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local communities, including emergency support for families facing detention or deportation.

**Upper New York**

- 2011: The conference is new, so United Methodist Women members are still getting to know one another.
- 2011: United Methodist Women relate to the conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2009: Albany United Methodist Women celebrate 50 years of helping impoverished community members, including sewing school supply bags for immigrants.
• Continuing discussions about immigration, dispelling the myths that surround immigrants.

• Ongoing advocacy through letter writing to state and federal elected officials regarding immigration policy. Majority of information comes from General Board Church and Society and the Immigration Policy Center.

• Ongoing letter writing to elected officials.

• Ongoing distribution of action alerts and “Faith in Action.”

• At Emmaus United Methodist Church in Albany, the majority of the members are immigrants or refugees from Africa. United Methodist Women supports them by helping them find housing, jobs, and schools, donating food and supplies and providing English as a second language classes.

• United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men have cooperated to build bed frames, provide mattresses and donate food to seasonal racecourse workers who care for horses at Saratoga Springs. The majority of backstretch workers at Saratoga Race Course during the summer season are immigrants who live in dormitory-style rooms with little or no privacy.

**Virginia**

• 2011: Virginia United Methodist Women website promotes the DREAM Act and encourages United Methodist Women to host DREAM Sabbaths in Fall 2011 and to get involved in the 365 Day Fast in Solidarity With DREAM Act Students.

• September 2010: United Methodist Women attend the Board of Church and Society Immigration Conference at Lake Junaluska, where immigration issues are highlighted.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo. Diana Chappell-Lewis volunteers at peacekeeper.

• 2010: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.

• 2008: Immigration a conference social action priority.

• United Methodist Women relates to conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.

• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.

Diana Chappell-Lewis of the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women serves as peacekeeper at May 1, 2010, Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo. Photo by Carol Barton.
• Ongoing distribution of action alerts via e-mail.
• Ongoing language interpretation at United Methodist Women meetings to welcome immigrant sisters.
• Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local communities, including emergency support for families facing detention or deportation.
• Ongoing support for refugee resettlement efforts.
• Ongoing partnership with Church Women United.
• Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.
• United Methodist Women help to teach English as a second language, tutor children after school, provide summer programs for children and youth, distribute furniture and offer household help at Casa de Amistad in Waynesboro.

WEST MICHIGAN

• December 2011: Nichea Ver Veer Guy, Women’s Division director, attends People’s Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, and sends reports to the conference.
• September 11, 2011: Congregational sermons, adult education classes, children’s programming on celebrating diversity, including Mayor George Heartwell initiating a yearlong focus on interfaith dialogue and cooperative ministries.
• August 2011: Patricia Bostic and Debra Prins participate in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.
• Summer 2011: United Methodist Women promote the “Tenfold” live webcast on August 10 about Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).
• 2011: Linda Barrow leads a “Bold Faith” trip to Washington, D.C., for a General Board of Church and Society seminar focused on immigration and human trafficking. The seminar is followed by legislative visits in support of the DREAM Act.
• 2011: Work on immigration by Patsy Coffman in the St. Johns area.
• 2011: Local JFON in Grand Rapids/Holland has a presentation on Michigan’s pending immigration reform legislation.
• 2010: United Methodist Women members write postcards to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on racial profiling and immigration enforcement policy.
• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
• Summer 2010: Immigration Discussion Series is held as part of Isaiah 58 National Prayer at First United Methodist Church in Ypsilanti.
• 2008: Clarice McKenzie, social action coordinator, works with United Methodist Women to provide clothing, food and toys to share with migrant children.
• 2008: United Methodist Women in Florida makes a connection with United Methodist Women in West Michigan through members’ work to help migrant families in the Plant City area of Florida. These are strawberry farmworkers and their families, and many work their way north to Michigan
for the late summer and fall crop work. Clarice McKenzie is working on a connection for when the families are in West Michigan.

- United Methodist Women members sign Coalition of Immokalee Workers cards in support of a pay raise for tomato pickers at the Kroger Corporation. United Methodist Women members help with getting contracts and act as advocates within the government.

- Ongoing local unit mission/outreach. This ministry serves about 80 people, providing English as a second language (ESL) classes, transportation to and from clinics, translation for passport applications, help with buying/repairing cars and emergency support. The church’s doors are open to its ESL students, allowing them a safe place to cook and dance.

- Ongoing partnership with the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism/Partners for a Racism-Free Community. This serves a very diverse area of western Michigan. United Methodist Women encourages local churches to begin training to be Racism-Free Communities.

- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
- Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local communities.
- Ongoing partnerships with National Farm Worker Ministry, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Oxfam, National Farmworkers and Council of Churches.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.

West Ohio

- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- Use of the Program Book at conference, district and local levels.
- Relate to conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.
- Immigration is a conference social action priority.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation and letter writing to elected officials.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Ongoing study of the issues surrounding immigration.

West Virginia

- 2012: Immigration becomes a conference social action priority.
- 2010: United Methodist Women members promote and participate in the 365 Day Fast in Solidarity With DREAM Act Students.
- Ongoing use of United Methodist Women program materials for study and discussion.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

- 2011: Immigration becomes a conference social action priority.
- 2011: Mark Sills leads a plenary session on immigration facts.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
- 2010 Annual meeting Charter for Racial Justice focus group addresses immigration concerns, including racial profiling under 287G agreements with local law enforcement. Elmira Nazombe of National United Methodist Women is guest speaker.
- The Methodist Federation for Social Action presents a program on immigration.
- Table displays are shown at United Methodist Women spiritual growth retreat and annual meeting.
- Local units use immigration resources from the 2009-2011 Program Books.
- Ongoing cooperation with the North Carolina Council of Churches to promote increased understanding of immigration issues.
- Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
- Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
- Ongoing monitoring of legislation. Ongoing cooperation with the National Farmworker Ministry, which provides educational opportunities to immigrants.
- Ongoing volunteer work with immigrants in local communities.
- Charter for Racial Justice committee focus.
- Ongoing support of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

- 2011: Immigration will be a conference social action priority in 2013.
- May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.

Donna Burkhart, then Western Pennsylvania Conference president, in St. Louis, Mo., May 1, 2010, for the March for Immigration, Civil and Human Rights in conjunction with United Methodist Women’s Assembly 2010. Photo by Carol Barton.
 WisconsIn

• August 2011: Dodie Smith participates in immigration track at National Seminar in Birmingham, Ala.

• October 8, 2010: Gail Burgess and Betty Moore form immigration focus group at annual meeting.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women promotes and participate in the Statewide March for Immigrants and Workers Rights in Madison and Milwaukee, Wisc.

• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo. Chu Vang, Women’s Division director, is part of volunteer team for the action.

• April 8, 2010: Social action coordinator Mary Lainberger publishes immigration resource list and action ideas in Catch the Vision newsletter.

• 2010: At School of Christian Mission, Donna Veach leads United Methodist Women in letter writing to elected officials at Statewide Organizing for Community Empowerment.

• September 28, 2009: United Methodist Women members participate in an Immigration Summit in Milwaukee.

• August 1, 2009: Anita Lang, Hispanic language coordinator, presents a bilingual worship service called “Strengthening the Present—Securing the Future.” Harriet Olson of Women’s Division gives the message.

• May 1, 2009: United Methodist Women commemorates first anniversary of the immigration raid that took place at Agriprocessors in Postville, Iowa. Day of nationwide awareness of the need for just immigration reform.

• April 6, 2009: Mary Lainberger sets up Immigration Communication Group e-mail distribution list.

• March 21, 2009: Mary Lainberger organizes “For Christ’s Sake Turn the World Upside Down” event with focus on immigration. The Rev. Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis is the event’s visionary speaker. Current U.S. policy, myths of immigration and undocumented migrants are discussed. Participants learn how to write letters to editors and state representatives.

• 2009: Delores Coleman distributes immigrant rights buttons at legislative event.

• 2008-2010: Mary Lainberger serves on Conference Rapid Response Team on Immigration.
• 2008: Mary Lainberger writes an article on immigration for Catch the Vision.
• 2008: United Methodist Women members participate in Family Unity Hearing with Representative Luis Gutierrez.

YELLOWSTONE
• May 1, 2010: United Methodist Women members participate in Assembly Action for Immigrant, Civil and Human Rights in St. Louis, Mo.
• 2007: Carol Barton and elmira Nazombe lead a racial justice women’s retreat including discussion on immigration.
• Ongoing use of United Methodist Women resources at local, district and conference levels.
• Ongoing study of immigration issues.
• Ongoing prayers for immigrants.
• Ongoing distribution of action alerts.
• Ongoing monitoring of legislation.
• Ongoing partnership with Church Women United.