

The following resolution was approved by the delegates at a plenary of the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, held in Kansas City July 11-July 15, 2025.

*Vote: 25-GS-38  
Minutes Page Number: 54  
Plenary: 7*

**CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO OPPOSE THE 2025  
IMMIGRATION ROLLBACKS AND SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND  
PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITIES, WHILE AMPLIFYING ANTIRACIST WORK ON  
BEHALF OF BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IN RESPONSE TO  
THE CURRENT SOCIO-POLITICAL BACKLASH**

**A Resolution of Witness**

1 **TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION**

2

3 **WHEREAS** President Donald J. Trump rescinded multiple immigration protections beginning  
4 his first week in office in January 2025, including the Sensitive Locations Guidance, the Cuba,  
5 Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela humanitarian parole program, and other asylum protections;<sup>1</sup>  
6 and

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8 **WHEREAS** according to the ACLU of Hawai'i, at least 20 undocumented immigrants were  
9 arrested in Hawai'i in the first week of Trump's administration in 2025, instilling fear among the  
10 41,000 to 51,000 undocumented immigrants residing in the state, approximately half of whom  
11 are of Filipino descent;<sup>2</sup> and

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13 **WHEREAS** data from Asian American and Pacific Islander Data and Asian Americans  
14 Advancing Justice indicate that Asian Americans are the fastest-growing undocumented  
15 population in the United States, with over 1.7 million undocumented individuals, and Pacific  
16 Islanders are disproportionately criminalized and deported due to racialized policing and lack of  
17 legal access;<sup>3</sup> and

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19 **WHEREAS** the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported on February 6, 2025, that Fiji's Prime  
20 Minister Sitiveni Rabuka warned the U.S. Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus that the  
21 deportation of Pacific Islanders with criminal convictions from the United States posed a serious  
22 public safety risk for Pacific Island nations, which are unequipped to support returnees with gang  
23 and drug activity records;<sup>4</sup> and

24

25 **WHEREAS** the Compacts of Free Association allow citizens from the Federated States of  
26 Micronesia including Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap, the Republic of the Marshall Islands,  
27 and the Republic of Palau to live and work legally in the United States, yet community members  
28 are being caught up in enforcement actions and ICE raids despite these rights, as confirmed by  
29 the ACLU and multiple Pacific Island government representatives;<sup>5</sup> and

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**WHEREAS** an April 8, 2025 Honolulu Star-Advertiser investigation found that ICE is now detaining COFA migrants across Hawai'i who have merely been arrested, even without formal charges, and some have been deported years after completing minor sentences, separating them from their United States citizen children;<sup>6</sup> and

**WHEREAS** though the First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects the right to free speech and to petition the government for redress of grievances for everyone in the country regardless of immigration status, many immigrants including green card holders and those on student visas have been arrested under threat of deportation for expressing dissent of Trump Administration policies and actions;<sup>7</sup> and

**WHEREAS** recent reports from Hawai'i Public Radio and other national sources reveal that lawful permanent residents, including green card holders, have been detained, denied re-entry at ports of entry, or placed in removal proceedings without due process under the 2025 immigration rollbacks, deepening fear and instability among immigrant communities;<sup>8</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the United Church of Christ Office of Public Policy and Advocacy has condemned these rollbacks and emphasized that they contradict our theological understanding of the Imago Dei, the belief that all people are made in the image of God; and

**WHEREAS** Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) of the United Church of Christ represent many communities profoundly impacted by these policies including but not limited to Filipinos, Fijians, Tongans, Samoans, Micronesians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Southeast Asian Americans and whose members contribute to the fabric of American religious, civic, and cultural life;<sup>9</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM), Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries, United Black Christians, the Council for American Indian Ministries, Ministers for Racial Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ), United Samoan Ministries, and Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, have a shared history of confronting white supremacy and state violence that intersects with this current immigration crisis;<sup>10</sup> and

**WHEREAS** Latinx communities comprising over 24 million individuals or more than half of the U.S. foreign-born population continue to experience systemic criminalization, detention, and deportation at disproportionate rates, with Latin Americans making up approximately 77% of the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States;<sup>11</sup> and

68 **WHEREAS** the Supreme Court and lower courts have ruled that immigrant detainees must be  
69 notified in advance and granted time to appeal removal orders, despite inconsistent  
70 enforcement;<sup>12</sup> and

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72 **WHEREAS** over 935,000 migrants who entered lawfully using the Customs and Border  
73 Protection One mobile app—primarily from Venezuela, Cuba, and Mexico—have lost legal  
74 status and been encouraged to self-deport through a rebranded “CBP Home” app;<sup>13</sup> and

75  
76 **WHEREAS** the CHNV humanitarian parole program and Temporary Protected Status (TPS)  
77 protections for Haitian and Venezuelan nationals have been revoked or curtailed, leaving  
78 hundreds of thousands vulnerable to deportation;<sup>14</sup> and

79  
80 **WHEREAS** the American Indian College Fund and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF)  
81 have documented cases of Indigenous individuals being harassed, profiled, or detained due to a  
82 lack of understanding by ICE agents regarding tribal citizenship and U.S. birthright citizenship  
83 under the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924;<sup>15</sup> and

84  
85 **WHEREAS** the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM), including the Council for  
86 American Indian Ministries (CAIM), has consistently affirmed tribal sovereignty, denounced  
87 state violence against Native peoples, and called for stronger advocacy on behalf of Indigenous  
88 rights; and

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90 **WHEREAS** Black immigrants—an estimated 5.29 million individuals, primarily from Haiti,  
91 Jamaica, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and other African and Caribbean nations—face a disproportionate  
92 risk of detention, deportation, and denial of asylum protections under the Trump  
93 Administration’s 2025 immigration rollbacks, exacerbated by racial profiling and over-policing  
94 in Black communities;<sup>16</sup> and

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96 **WHEREAS** despite representing a smaller share of the undocumented population, Black  
97 immigrants are more likely than others to be detained without bond, placed in solitary  
98 confinement, and subjected to higher bail amounts and expedited removals, often triggered by  
99 nonviolent infractions such as traffic stops;<sup>17</sup> and

100  
101 **WHEREAS** the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals,  
102 alongside mass deportations and refugee bans targeting migrants from “Black-majority” nations,  
103 has left hundreds of thousands vulnerable to expulsion, despite severe violence, food insecurity,  
104 and political instability in their home countries;<sup>18</sup> and

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106 **WHEREAS** President Trump’s 2025 executive orders dismantled all federal diversity, equity,  
107 and inclusion (DEI) programs, rescinded civil rights protections for government contractors, and

108 falsely blamed DEI for national tragedies, resulting in mass firings of Black federal workers and  
109 renewed racial scapegoating in public discourse;<sup>19</sup> and

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111 **WHEREAS** the United Black Christians (UBC) and Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic  
112 Justice (MRSEJ), both COREM auxiliaries, have long advocated for Black liberation, immigrant  
113 justice, and the dismantling of systemic racism within church and society, and stand in solidarity  
114 with Black migrants disproportionately impacted by these policies;<sup>20</sup> and

115  
116 **WHEREAS** COREM auxiliaries, including CAIM, MRSEJ, PAAM, USM, Colectivo de UCC  
117 Latinx Ministries, and UBC, have the cultural expertise, lived experience, and long-standing  
118 commitment necessary to effectively help these communities address and overcome the  
119 problems of this present time and those that will come in the future; and

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121 **WHEREAS** increasing financial support for COREM will strengthen its ability to do the work  
122 of advocating for marginalized groups, developing leadership, and carrying out transformative  
123 ministry; and

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125 **WHEREAS** the Thirty-First General Synod encouraged the development of U.S. policy  
126 dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants and encouraged  
127 the National Setting, Conferences and Associations to call on their members to become active  
128 Immigrant Welcoming Congregations and proclaim themselves to be so;<sup>21</sup>

129  
130 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church  
131 of Christ calls upon all settings of the Church to oppose the 2025 Trump Administration's  
132 immigration policies and condemn and reject ANY policies or actions that deny sanctuary,  
133 access to services, or human dignity to migrants, immigrants, refugees, and BIPOC individuals.  
134 These actions include, but are not limited to, tribal, state, and local law enforcement cooperation  
135 with ICE and the use of public lands for immigrant detention facilities.

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137 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the ministries of the United Church of Christ are strongly  
138 urged to support additional training, workshops, and educational opportunities for individuals  
139 and congregations including, but not limited to, organizing pastoral care, legal education,  
140 community education, Know Your Rights trainings, accompaniment ministries, and sanctuary  
141 efforts for vulnerable immigrant communities in partnership with other immigrant-supporting  
142 organizations.

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144 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
145 Christ invites the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Pacific Islander and  
146 Asian American Ministries (PAAM) to collaborate, and to be present for and supportive of our  
147 Micronesian siblings and pay careful attention to the needs and stressors of the Micronesian

148 community, especially with regard to the impact of Compacts of Free Association (COFA)  
149 migration status.

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151 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
152 Christ urges all settings of the church to advocate that tribal, state, and federal governments  
153 establish permanent offices for immigrant rights protection and enforcement. These offices  
154 should be tasked with investigating violations of immigrant rights, coordinating enforcement of  
155 existing protections, assisting impacted families, ensuring restitution for victims, supporting  
156 legal and pastoral resources for immigrant communities, and advancing public education about  
157 immigrant contributions, rights, and dignity. Such offices are essential to counter ongoing  
158 systemic harm—including racial profiling, disability discrimination, family separation, and  
159 wrongful detention—that disproportionately affects immigrant communities of color.

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161 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
162 Christ urges all settings of the Church to support tribal, state, and local legislation that protects  
163 immigrant rights, ensures due process, prevents collaboration with ICE by tribal, state, and local  
164 law enforcement, and prohibits the use of public land for immigration detention facilities.

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166 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
167 Christ encourages every local church, including individuals in their own communities, especially  
168 those with the privilege of not being directly targeted by these policies, to become active in  
169 immigrant welcoming ministries, to offer legal and moral sanctuary, to support legal defense  
170 funds, and to speak and act prophetically against fear-based immigration enforcement policies  
171 that separate families and cause suffering.

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173 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
174 Christ requests that the United Church of Christ Board increase funding for the COREM-  
175 affiliated ministries to ensure robust and sustainable investment in these ministries and the work  
176 of social justice within these constituencies.

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178 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such funding shall not be limited to meetings alone. It  
179 shall be allocated across three essential areas of work: advocacy, leadership development, and  
180 transformative ministry.

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182 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
183 Christ invites local churches and individuals to make direct donations to COREM-affiliated  
184 ministries, with their permission, to further their work.

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187 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of  
188 Christ calls upon Global H.O.P.E., Refugee and Migration Ministries,<sup>22</sup> and other relevant  
189 ministries to collaborate with PAAM and COREM partners to develop and distribute an  
190 immigration response resource toolkit. This toolkit shall be offered to conferences,  
191 congregations, and relevant organizations and faith-based coalitions.

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193 **FUNDING:** The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance  
194 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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196 **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries  
197 or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://immigrationforum.org/article/the-first-100-days-of-the-second-trump-administration-key-immigration-related-actions-and-developments/>

<sup>2</sup> ACLU of Hawai‘i. “Immigration Crackdown Begins in Hawai‘i as Advocates, Lawmakers Push Back.” January 29, 2025. <https://www.acluhi.org/en/news/immigration-crackdown-begins-hawaii-advocates-lawmakers-push-back>

<sup>3</sup> AAPI Data. “Evidence Matters: Immigration Trends Among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.” January 13, 2025. <https://aapidata.com/blog/evidence-matters-immigration-trends-among-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders/>  
<sup>4</sup> Advertiser, February 6, 2025. <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/02/06/breaking-news/fiji-leader-warns-of-risks-from-deportations-of-pacific-islanders/>

<sup>5</sup> Dan Nakaso. “ICE Arresting COFA Migrants Not Charged with Crimes.” Honolulu Star-Advertiser, April 8, 2025. <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/04/08/hawaii-news/ice-arresting-cofa-migrants-not-charged-with-crimes/>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Hawai‘i Public Radio. “Green Card Holders, Travelers Caught in Trump’s Immigration Crackdown.” March 31, 2025. <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/national-international/2025-03-31/green-card-holders-travelers-caught-in-trumps-immigration-crackdown>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries. “Statement from COREM Ministries.” United Church of Christ, 2020. [https://www.ucc.org/about-us\\_council-for-racial-and-ethnic/](https://www.ucc.org/about-us_council-for-racial-and-ethnic/)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Pew Research Center; U.S. Census 2023. As cited in Chase Harrison and Khalea Robertson, “Tracking Trump and Latin America: Migration.” AS/COA, May 1, 2025.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/01/g-s1-63830/trump-appointed-federal-judge-blocks-use-of-alien-enemies-act-for-venezuelans-in-south-texas>

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection. “CBP One App Usage Summary.” January 14, 2025.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “Notice of Termination of CHNV Program.” March 25, 2025; U.S. District Court ruling on Venezuelan TPS, March 31, 2025; DHS TPS Rollback for Haiti, February 24, 2025.

<sup>15</sup> American Indian College Fund. “ICE Raids Negatively Impact American Indians.” February 27, 2025.

<https://collegefund.org/blog/ice-raids-negatively-impact-american-indians/>; Native American Rights Fund. “Native Americans and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights.” February 6, 2025. <https://narf.org/citizenship-immigration-2025/>; CNN. “Navajo Nation Leaders Raise Alarm Over Reports of Indigenous People Being Questioned and Detained.” January 27, 2025. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/27/us/navajo-detained-ice-indigenous-immigration-trump>

<sup>16</sup> Council on Racial and Ethnic Ministries Statement, op.cit.

<sup>17</sup> “Uncovering the Truth,” Freedom for Immigrants, accessed May 29, 2025,

<https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/report-uncovering-the-truth#:~:text=The%20detainment%20of%20Black%20immigrants,Black%20abuse%20in%20ICE%20custody.>

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<sup>18</sup> United States of America shadow report to the committee ..., accessed May 30, 2025, [https://humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/US-Coalition\\_anti-Black-Discrimination-in-Immigration-CERD-Report\\_072222.pdf](https://humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/US-Coalition_anti-Black-Discrimination-in-Immigration-CERD-Report_072222.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Michelle L. Price and Zeke Miller, "Trump's Orders to End Dei Programs Reflect His Push for a Profound Cultural Shift," AP News, January 23, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/trump-executive-orders-dei-7ef0bf4ce1d465f6b61f3fcfde544593>.

<sup>20</sup> Janell Ross. "For Black Immigrants, a Second Trump Term Hits Different." Capital B News, March 5, 2025. <https://capitalbnews.org/trump-immigration-policies-deportations-black-immigrants/>

<sup>21</sup> United Church of Christ. "Immigrant Welcoming Congregations." <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/refugee-and-migration-ministries/immigrant-welcoming-congregations/>  
<https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/17-GS-10.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> "Refugee and Migration Ministries," United Church of Christ, March 28, 2024, <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/refugee-and-migration-ministries/>.