

**A Resolution Concerning the Welfare of Unaccompanied Migrant Children in the
Alabama-West Florida Conference.**

Whereas, we accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Whereas, throughout Scripture the people of God are called to love sojourners in our midst, treating them “as if they were one of your citizens” and loving them as we do ourselves (Leviticus 19:33-34 NRSV)

Whereas, In Scripture, migrant persons are also identified as messengers bringing good news and/or support for events to come.

Whereas, more than 700 unaccompanied migrant children have been relocated to Alabama since October 2015, and more than 200 children relocated to areas of Florida this year alone.

Whereas, most unaccompanied children arrive from Central America to the U.S. without a guardian and are taken into custody by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which provides limited food, shelter and medical care.

Whereas, the reality of illegal immigration will not go away, we who are the church should lean to scripture and support those who cannot speak for themselves.

Whereas, through scripture it is said to, “remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. (Isaiah 58:9-10 NRSV)

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in its regularly scheduled session June 4 through June 7, 2017, does petition the Governors of the States of Alabama and Florida, the Honorable Kay Ivey and the Honorable Rick Scott, respectively, and the members of the respective State Houses of Representatives and State Senates to offer additional support for unaccompanied migrant children in the state of Alabama until they have found legal support and permanent housing; and

Be it further resolved that the United Methodists of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference who are residents of Alabama and Florida be encouraged to contact their State Legislators and local immigration offices to inquire about ways to support local agencies in their counties; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governors and every member of the Alabama and Florida Legislatures.

Submitted by:
The Conference Board of Church and Society.