

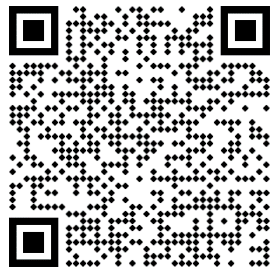
This resource is drawn from the online workshop, “Responding to Anti-Immigration Talking Points as People of Faith” with Rev. Doug Pagitt of *Vote Common Good* on February 29, 2024.

The workshop was sponsored by the Immigration Working Group of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ



For more information on our work, please visit www.wcucc.org/justice-ministries/immigration-justice/

To access a recording of the full (1.5 hour) workshop, scan this QR code



To access a recording of a shorter version (28 minutes) of workshop highlights, scan this QR code



Faith-based responses to common questions about immigration



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A resource for engaging in conversation and seeking common ground

Why don't people who want to come to the U.S. just get in line and follow the rules the way my ancestors did?

Few legal pathways for migration to the U.S. exist and the process is lengthy and complicated.

Immigrants take good jobs from native-born people.

Most immigrants fill positions that employers cannot fill with native-born people, through shortages of skilled workers in the field (e.g., nursing or engineering) or because the jobs are low-paying, and often lack benefits and/or are seasonal (e.g., agricultural, hospitality, and construction work).

Immigrants bring drugs across the border.

Drugs cross the border on unscreened trucks, not with migrants.



Immigrants are a major source of crime.

Immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, are far less likely to be arrested, to commit or be convicted of crimes, and to be incarcerated than native-born people.

Undocumented people receive welfare benefits and don't pay taxes.

Undocumented people receive emergency medical care and schooling but not welfare or other government benefits. They pay sales tax, contribute to property taxes through rent or house payments, and if employed—as most are—contribute to payroll taxes.

The United States is being overrun by immigrants.

We are in a global migration crisis, with unprecedented numbers of people forced to leave their homes due to war, famine, political instability, violence, crop failures, deforestation, and other reasons.

What are we called to do as people of faith?

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.”

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NIV)

Isolating Scripture texts, especially from books like Leviticus, can be problematic. But if we are looking for a text to guide how our faith calls us to relate to and with immigrants among us, Leviticus 19:33 is among the best. Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35 remind us that our treatment of the “stranger” (or refugee or immigrant) is synonymous with our treatment of Christ. More than anything, Scripture reminds us that all humans are created in the image of God, and should be treated with justice, kindness, and dignity (Micah 6:8). As people of faith, we must make sure that immigrants are not objectified and dehumanized. We need to hear and respond to their human stories, the cruel, unjust, and desperate situations and conditions they are often fleeing, and the dangerous and costly journeys many have taken to reach our borders. It is possible to have both a secure and just immigration policy and to welcome all persons with the deep compassion at the heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition.



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