

October 20, 2018.

To the Methodist Church of Mexico

To our sister churches

To all people of goodwill

To all present,

As a Methodist Church, our identity is that of a migrant church. Our faith and tradition traveled from Palestine to England crossing borders and languages over the centuries, from there arriving in Mexico through migrants from England and the United States. Our congregations are the fruit of the many journeys and exchanges of people who escaping violence, poverty and marginalization have sought better life opportunities in other communities. Together with the Methodist Church around the world, we understand that migration enriches us: we belong to a global community of many cultures and languages that surpasses established borders in order to be a part of God's people.

Our faith brings us close and raises our sensitivity to the reality of migration. We believe in Jesus Christ, who had to cross borders to flee violence, just as tens of thousands do across our Latin American lands escaping poverty, crime and other situations that force them to live under precarious circumstances. We join the suffering people of Latin America as migrants and pilgrims with them.

Therefore, in the love of our God, we declare the following:

1. We confess that God has not created borders. The world created by God does not know of barriers but of people who walk in search of lands that offer them lives of dignity and safety. Furthermore, we affirm that there are no people who are not migrants to some degree, nor any society that has not been enriched by those who have come and become integrated into its life. We are a migrant people on a journey.
2. We declare that the reality of Central American migration causes us great pain. We shall not be indifferent to the suffering it causes. We are a church that empathizes with the suffering of men, women, youth, children and entire families who find themselves having to confront borders and criminal elements in order to find opportunities for a better life.

With this empathy, we affirm that the Methodist Church is and always will be attentive, standing in spiritual and material solidarity with migrants as we strengthen our actions to bring them relief. We are a migrant people on a journey.

3. We exhort society and civil authorities to treat the migrants who cross Mexican soil with dignity. Receive those who migrate as if receiving Jesus Christ himself. Treat them as if they were your own families; help them as if you were the ones migrating. May the love of our people extend to the migrants. As a Mexican people, we are also a migrant people on a journey.

4. In pastoral love, we remind the Church that its duty is to be hospitable to those who migrate. Each of our communities can be of enormous help to those who today suffer whether they are on the migrant route or not.

Let us show generosity in our monetary offerings and let us provide resources to institutions, shelters, organizations and projects that responsibly and transparently support migrants. Let us courageously denounce the crimes and acts of hate that attack those who are suffering on this day. Let us be instruments of peace and let us remove from our lips any words that discriminate against and violate the migrant. In summary, let us be water and manna in the desert for the people who migrate.

The Methodist Church of Mexico will always be willing to collaborate with government, civic institutions, and with people of good will who care for the wellbeing of migrants.

ATTENTIVELY

COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

Bishop José Antonio Garza Castro
President of the College of Bishops
CAO

Bishop Felipe Ruíz Aguilar
President of the General Cabinet
CANO

Bishop Raquel Balbuena Osorio
Secretary of the College of Bishops
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