

SESSION 5 OVERVIEW LET'S TALK: ABOUT IMMIGRATION

The human journey of God's children launches many of us on a passage as immigrants. Learn about root causes of migration, hear about the experiences of individuals and ministries on the issue, and see how policy intersects with immigration pressures. This issue-specific session 5 of the ELCA Advocacy Summer School series highlights current realities for migrants and displaced peoples, how the church is responding through its AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors With Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) and how local congregations can start ministries of accompaniment.

- **Why and How Is the ELCA Involved?**
Giovana Oaxaca, ELCA Program Director, Migration Policy
- **Why Do Migrants Leave Their Homes, and What Awaits them?**
Juan Hurtado Paz y Paz, Director of Asociacion Pop No'j, a partner of AMMPARO in Guatemala
- **Why Do People Leave Their Homes?**
Stephen Deal, ELCA regional representative in Central America
- **What Does It Mean to Accompany?**
Mary Campbell, ELCA Program Director, AMMPARO
- **How Can a Local Congregation Connect?**
Vicar Bethany Ulrich, Wicker Park Lutheran Church in Chicago, Ill.

View this session from ELCA Vimeo channel -
<https://vimeo.com/611934887/f77c48900f>

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LET'S TALK: ABOUT IMMIGRATION

ADVOCACY SUMMER SCHOOL

SESSION 5 DISCUSSION STARTER

Offered by



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In collaboration with



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A REFLECTION FROM ELCA FOUNDATIONS

"We recognize and rejoice that our church along with our country continues to change with the steady arrival of newcomers in the United States. Persons who have recently come from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and other areas of the world are enriching congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). ... We thank God for these developments, and we remember Paul's admonition: 'Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God' (Romans 15:7). We also recognize the obstacles and difficulties our church and society face in welcoming newcomers." - From the ELCA social message "Immigration" (p. 1)

You can read or download the full social message in English or Spanish from www.ELCA.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Immigration.

GETTING CONVERSATION STARTED

- Is an immigrant experience part of your family's story? How might leaving home and living as a foreigner be easy or difficult?
- When listening to reasons that people leave their homes, what are your reactions to or impressions of children and families who search for a better life?
- How does your congregation live out the scriptural call to welcome the stranger? How has that impacted worship of God in your setting?
- How are immigrants and refugees treated in your community? In our nation? Has this changed?
- Recognizing the challenges our nation faces in extending welcome to immigrants, what policy changes might improve people's ability to recognize the face of Jesus in the sojourner, with inherent dignity and rights?

MORE INFORMATION

Explore resources on the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy which include Bible studies, primers on the root causes of forced migration and "Words Create Worlds" at www.ELCA.org/ammparo. Learn more about the ELCA's public stance on immigration — that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith — through "Sanctuary Denomination" resources at www.ELCA.org/sanctuarychurch.

Look into opportunities with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), whose championship of refugees and migrants from around the globe reflects American Lutherans' deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those most in need, at LIRS.org.

TAKE ACTION

Be one of the thousands of people who act on their faith to impact public policy through Action Alerts from the ELCA Advocacy Network. Sign up at www.ELCA.org/advocacy/signup. Find us on social media @ELCAadvocacy as well as @ELCAammparo.