

South Georgia Conference

Undocumented Neighbors Task force Annual Conference Report – June 2018

Presented by, Rev. Brett Maddocks, Chair

This Task Force's charge is to develop a strategy to:

1. provide education to the members of the South Georgia Conference, both clergy and laity, about the history of immigration throughout the centuries and human and civil rights concerning our undocumented members, and
2. encourage members of our South Georgia United Methodist churches who so choose to engage in concrete Wesleyan works of piety and mercy—seeking justice, ending discrimination and addressing the needs of the poor—on behalf of our undocumented neighbors.

This task force has been regularly meeting and forming plans to carry out the task of identifying or producing educational materials and opportunities and offering training to local churches and the conference as a whole on issues concerning immigration. Also, will participate in the Intercultural Development Inventory training for cultural competency as a way to work and live together in the life of the faith community, and as a tool to accomplish missional goals to make Disciples of Christ within and outside the church.

It is our conviction that the church's response to these matters go beyond "right and left," "democrats and republicans." They strike at the heart of the "Great Commandment" and the "Great Commission." Remember the challenge given James' epistle, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." May we never forget who we are.

This report and updates on the Task force actions can be found on the Advocacy Team website – www.sgaumc.org/advocacy.