

NEWS RELEASE

FROM: MARCHA (Methodist Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans) The Hispanic Caucus of the United Methodist Church and Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.

MARCHA is deeply concerned about the continued treatment of undocumented immigrants and actions taken by the Immigration Service that results in rushed deportations and breaking up of Hispanic/Latino families. The arrest and deportation of Elvira Arellano and the dramatic separation from her eight-year-old son remind us of the ongoing struggle to do what is right and best for the many undocumented families of persons who work and live in fear, in the shadows of our nation. Continued rushed deportations without concern for families, particularly small children who are left behind, is cruel and contrary to traditional family values of our faith and our country.

- As members of the United Methodist Church, we call upon the UMC to make its voice known against such treatment and, faithful to biblical teachings, to continue its courageous sanctuary ministry.
- As American citizens, we call upon our legislative leaders to address a comprehensive immigration reform that includes concern for families and a path toward citizenship.
- As Christians, we call upon the Christian community to give witness to God's grace for all peoples, especially the stranger, the poor, and the marginalized.
- As members of the broader religious community, we call upon all people of faith from all religious traditions to stand together in affirming our common humanity and values that lift us to higher standards of human and social conduct.

For more information visit us at: www.marcha.info or contact
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This release will be posted in our web site on 08/22/07

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