



The Synod of the Southwest

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
in New Mexico and Arizona

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Synod of the Southwest responds to Arizona's new Immigration law

Commissioners from the four presbyteries in the Synod of the Southwest responded to the new immigration law in Arizona by adopting recommendations from its Border Ministry Team at its June meeting. In response to Arizona SB 1070/HB 2162, Synod approved taking the following actions:

- a. Urge all presbyteries and congregations to study the PC(USA) Immigration Policy and Documents;
- b. Urge all presbyteries and congregations to reflect upon our confessional statements, particularly the Brief Statement of Faith and the Confession of 1967 as they relate to issues of immigration;
- c. Provide opportunities for Presbyterians of diverse ethnicity, immigrant status, and political perspectives to engage one another in learning, conversation, and prayer about immigration issues and potential reform
- d. Hold all of its meetings in the State of New Mexico until Arizona policy is repealed so that all participants in meetings of the Synod are welcome and not subject to potential interrogation and/or racial profiling;
- e. Express these decisions in writing to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer; and,
- f. Direct the Border Ministry Team to continue to discuss and work on a draft statement reflecting the theological and Biblical convictions that provide guidance for our support for comprehensive immigration reform and our opposition to SB 1070/HB 2162, to be brought to the next stated meeting of the Synod.

A wide range of documents and policy statements of the Presbyterian Church (USA) can be found on the denomination's website: <http://www.pcusa.org>.

In accordance with this action of the Synod, all meetings of the Synod are to be held in New Mexico as well as all committees of the Synod, and events sponsored by the Synod. Under this policy, Presbyterian Women of the Synod may meet this fall in Arizona. Any national event sponsored by the denomination (such as the Kaleidoscope Stewardship Conference next spring) is not affected by this policy.