This decision was made in response to a letter from Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey in which she urged Michigan Methodists to welcome refugees, specifically Syrians, who have been forced out of their home country by violence.

"As Christians we are called to welcome the stranger and to pay special attention and care to the widow, orphan, and foreigner – the most vulnerable members of our human family. As United Methodists, our Book of Resolutions reminds us that ‘Jesus fully identifies with the sojourner to the point that to welcome the sojourner is to welcome Jesus himself.’ (Matthew 25:36) Jesus teaches us to show special concern for the poor and oppressed who come to our land seeking survival and peace.”

-Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey

This page contains information about First United Methodist Church of Birmingham planning to sponsor the resettlement of a refugee family. Contact Refugee Resettlement Committee Chairman Frank Driscoll at frank.driscoll@mellc.co for more information or call the reverends Laurie or Gary Haller in the church office at (248) 646-1200.
WE NEED HELP

We need volunteers to help drive, donate supplies, socially engage and welcome our refugee family. We need monetary donations to help feed and clothe this family, who will likely arrive with only the clothes on their backs.

To help financially, please make checks payable to FUMC and write “Refugee Resettlement” in the memo line.

To volunteer, please email Richard Teets at Richard.Teets@gmail.com or text Susan Rieth at 248-797-8772.

Volunteer Forms are available at the Church Office.

REFUGEES DO NOT CHOOSE TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY CHOOSE TO LEAVE THEIR HOME COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY CANNOT RETURN DUE TO VIOLENCE AND PERSECUTION.

Lutheran Social Services offers these facts about U.S. refugee resettlement:

- Refugee status is the single most difficult way to come to the United States. Processing times for refugee resettlement average 18-24 months and can take as long as three or four years.

- To become a refugee in the United States requires a multi-stage vetting process - and only after receiving U.N. designation by trained officers in the field. The U.S. screens refugees prior to admission in the country, accepting only the most vulnerable.

- All refugees undergo thorough and rigorous security. Agencies involved include the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, the National Counterterrorism Center and other domestic and international intelligence agencies.