North Carolina Council of Churches – Petition to Welcome Immigrants

To:: Pat McCrory and Beverly Perdue, candidates for governor

Whereas all faith traditions call us to love our neighbors, to “welcome the stranger,” to offer hospitality and to work for social justice;

Whereas unfair trade agreements are a primary reason that our Central and South American neighbors seek life-saving work in the United States despite a lack of available legal channels;

Whereas current actions unduly emphasize deportation and family separation as primary responses to immigrants, highlighting the need for comprehensive immigration reform;

Therefore, we call upon you, the candidates for governor, as well as all elected officials and citizens to welcome immigrants as people who deserve dignity and respect. We urge that state and local governments of North Carolina provide fair treatment and protection of our state's immigrant population, access to education at community colleges and the ability to move freely.

Name	Address	City, State, Zip