**IMMIGRATION STATEMENT FROM STUDY COMMITTEE TO GWA LEADERSHIP**

**DECEMBER 2017**

**Dear David,**

**I’m looking forward to gathering together with the GWA this weekend. As you may recall, at our last meeting a committee of three (Steve Jones, William Sillings and me) were asked to develop a draft of a statement on immigration that the body could consider for adoption. We used material from the NAE, the church of the Nazarene, the Free Methodists and the Wesleyans in our considerations and submit the following draft:**

***As a global organization, the Global Wesleyan Alliance recognizes the challenges presented by ever-changing immigration laws in the various nations where we are represented, as well as the moral and ethical complexities encountered when ministering to immigrants and refugees (whether documented or undocumented).***

***At the same time, the Global Wesleyan Alliance affirms that there are timeless Biblical principles which are universally applicable to our interaction with immigrants. We therefore call upon our constituent organizations to:***

* ***Respect the God-given dignity of every person, treating immigrants and refugees with love, and mercy.***
* ***Follow the clear biblical mandate to welcome, assist, evangelize, and disciple the immigrants and refugees near us.***
* ***Advocate for equitable immigration laws and policies that will* protect the unity of the immediate family, enable legal work permits *for immigrants, and pathways for undocumented immigrants to obtain legal status and/or citizenship.***
* ***Respect and obey the laws of their respective governments, except when they are in direct violation of biblical principles. When there is a conflict between their heavenly and earthly citizenships as to specific claims, Christians have a moral responsibility to pursue biblical justice, as well as the political duty and right to seek to change the law and to act so as to maintain a clear conscience before God***

**Thank you and blessings,**

**David Roller**