



Immigration Today in East Tennessee

United Women in Faith Social Action Program

Smoky Mountain District

Zoom Call on Sunday, February 15, 2026 from 6:30 - 8 pm

Register here → <https://holston-reg.brtapp.com/ImmigrationToday>

Join us as we learn more about local issues around immigration and opportunities to advocate and assist immigrants in east Tennessee.

Kayce Castinir: Kayce advocates for the Hispanic community in East Tennessee. She will be bringing recent stories and witness to the call on local immigration enforcement.

Mary Ellis Richardson: Mary is a retired Federal Administrative Law Judge, Chair of Holston Conference Church and Society Committee, and a member of Church Street UMC. She will discuss what scripture and the Social Principles have to say about the immigration issue and our response to this issue as United Methodists.

Reverend Leah Burns

Reverend Burns is the Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries at Holston Conference. She will speak on training available to build multicultural churches and provide sensitivity training as well as other conference resources available.

Information will be shared on:

287G programs- what they are, which local police departments participate

Temporary Protective Status (20K people in TN impacted)

TN Legislative Session

HB0793 Public Schools

Verifier phone number

Other organizations for people to get more involved

Information Sources:

<https://tennesseelookout.com/2025/12/23/repub/trump-canceled-temporary-legal-status-for-more-than-1-5-million-immigrants-in-2025/>

<https://www.wate.com/news/tennessee/tennessee-sees-surge-in-law-enforcement-partnerships-with-ice/>