

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE - OCT. 16, 2011

Reflections

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

'KNOCK KNOCK...WHO'S THERE?'

BY REV. TOM REHLING

Immigration, undocumented workers, illegal aliens are terms that generate a lot of emotion these days. It seems that everyone has an opinion about who can, is, or should be allowed into the United States of America. However, there does not seem to be any easy solution to resolving the issue.

While the political issues are very complex with strong feelings on all sides, I believe there are two primary questions that are at the core of the quandary. 1. How should the US control and regulate entry into the country? 2. How should the US treat the people who are already here?

The cartoon in this reflection, shared by a friend on Facebook, and a recent visit to Ellis Island in New York City, reminded me that almost all of us have ancestors who immigrated to this country. Immigrants have not always been welcomed with open arms and were often discriminated against, segregated, used, and abused. Is it necessary to continue these patterns of behavior with our new immigrants today?

I don't have any solutions to propose, but it might help if we start thinking from the perspective of some of the basic principles of our faith.

1. This land is God's land and we are merely the current stewards in residence.
2. All people are children of God and God loves everyone equally – no exceptions.

I wonder what would happen if the US built an immigration policy based on the UCC slogan, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here."



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