

University United Methodist Church

SANCTUARY RESOLUTION

“Feed God’s People: Body, Mind, and Spirit”

WHEREAS, “We see UUMC as a living, teaching, diverse Christian community for all persons, a community that embraces its members, and the people of our neighborhood, region and world. We shall be known for our love, leadership, faith, actions, inclusiveness and social witness. We shall be known for using our gifts, the gifts of our partners, and our holy place to feed all the people—body, mind and spirit.” UUMC Vision Statement

WHEREAS, “As servants of Christ we are sent into the world to engage in the struggle for justice and reconciliation. We seek to reveal the love of God for ... [all people] of all ethnic, racial, cultural and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.” 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 124 “Our Mission in the World”

WHEREAS, as United Methodists, “We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We ... recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children...” Adopted by the 2016 General Conference Social Principles

WHEREAS, we at UUMC affirm the Biblical mandate of Leviticus 19:33-34; 24:22, “When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” and Matthew 25:37-40, “Then the righteous will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’” The Almighty will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” And the second great commandment, Mark 12: 31, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

WHEREAS, we as a congregation affirm the Constitutional principle that people should not be deprived of “life, liberty or property without due process of law,” and believe that children who are citizens because of their birth in the United States should not be deprived of their immigrant parents by deportation prior to exhaustion of all legal defense consistent with due process of law,

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that we declare ourselves to be a SANCTUARY CONGREGATION and commit to:

1. **Educate ourselves and our community about immigration-related issues.**
2. **Advocate for justice and comprehensive humane immigration reform.**
3. **Accompany and support immigrants and their families at their request when facing immigration related hearings and meetings or seeking change in their immigration status.**
4. **Become a part of the CNY Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, and support those congregations and persons who may reside in their sanctuary spaces.**

Stated more specifically, our commitments as a Sanctuary Congregation include, but may not be limited to, the following:

Educate ourselves and our community about immigration-related issues:

- + We will education ourselves about issues facing immigrants (i.e. tuition equity, wage theft) and about legislation targeting immigration policy reform.
- + We will avail ourselves of resources from and support organizations that work for immigrant justice (i.e. CNY Workers Center, The New Sanctuary Movement, Indivisible, etc.
- + We will collaborate with organizations working for justice, especially our sister faith-based organizations (CNY Solidarity Coalition, ACTS, etc.).

Advocate for justice and comprehensive humane immigration reform

- + We will actively and publicly work for comprehensive humane immigration reform in New York State and the USA.
- + We will support faith-based organizations calling for an end to programs that separate families and erode trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities, such as unjust detentions and deportations and unnecessary separations within immigrant families.
- + We will include our voice as a church community, and provide opportunities for individual members to include their voices in making positive changes to our immigration laws, policies and enforcement.

Accompany and support immigrants and their families at their request when facing immigration-related hearings and meetings or seeking change in their immigration status

- + We will accompany immigrants at their request to immigration hearings and meetings related to their immigration status to provide witness and support.
- + We will provide hospitality and tangible support for immigrants and their families going through immigration-related proceedings (i.e. meals, transportation, companionship) while being given sanctuary by a sister congregation.
- + We will seek ways to provide financial support when appropriate.
- + We will welcome immigrants and immigrant families into our congregation.

Adopted at a church conference on Sunday, September 17, 2017