

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SALEM

Resolution before the Congregation  
Forwarded by Congregants Supporting Social Justice Regarding:  
UUCS as a Sanctuary Congregation

Whereas current U.S. immigration laws are outdated, ineffective, and inhumane;

And whereas millions of people who come to this country to escape violence, hopelessness, fear and are desirous of a better life for themselves and their children must, as a consequence of these immigration laws, live under the perpetual threat of deportation and economic disadvantage and oppression;

And whereas the current administration enforces current law in a capricious manner, creating a widespread climate of fear and uncertainty among those without documentation, their family and friends;

And whereas undocumented people apprehended by the authorities too often languish in inhumane conditions in private, for profit detention centers;

And whereas these unjust conditions betray the nation's ideals and violate our Unitarian Universalist values in which "we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all" (our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> principle)

We the members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation resolve to offer sanctuary to undocumented vetted individual(s), whose only civil offence is that they are undocumented, and do so as an act of compassion, as a public witness in opposition to the U.S. government's unjust and inhumane treatment of undocumented persons in this country and as a means to bring about just and compassionate changes in public policies in the treatment of all undocumented people within the national borders.

The potential presence of an undocumented person(s) in our facility may require some adaptability and flexibility from staff and Kaleidoscope Preschool, all of whom do support this resolution, and from the members, who will indicate such support by voting in favor of this resolution at a duly constituted congregational meeting.

The economic impact of this resolution upon the congregational budget may include extra costs incurred by added use of utilities. Food and other necessities for our potential undocumented guests will be borne by volunteers within the congregation and volunteers from sanctuary support congregations in the community.

Cecilia Craig, Sarah Rohrs, and Michael Pollard, a sub-committee of the Social Justice Team will be responsible to coordinate and execute all necessary tasks when offering sanctuary and will be responsible to monitor our sanctuary ministry program and report on its status to the board monthly.

Proposed: 3/31/2017

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